



CSML

Civil Society and Media Leadership Program



QUARTERLY REPORT

July-September 2015

Submitted to USAID/Liberia

Award Number: 669-A-00-10-00074-00

Grantee: IREX

Contacts:

IREX Washington

Jill Miller
1275 K Street, NW
Suite 600
Washington, DC 20005
U.S.A.
1 202-628-8188

IREX Liberia

Bill Burke
Payne Avenue & 15th Street
Sinkor, Monrovia
Liberia
231(0)88-060-1859

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY.....	3
2. PROGRAM PURPOSE.....	3
3. PROGRAM RESULTS.....	4
4. PROGRAM ACTIVITIES.....	6
4.1. MANAGEMENT OVERVIEW.....	6
4.2. FINANCE, ADMINISTRATION, AND IT.....	6
4.2.1. FINANCE	6
4.2.2. ADMINISTRATION	7
4.2.3. IT	7
4.3. TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND CAPACITY BUILDING FOR CSOS AND FOR INDEPENDENT MEDIA	8
4.3.1. FULLY INTEGRATE CSML PARTNERS AND ENHANCE COLLABORATION	8
4.3.2. OBJECTIVE ONE: CSOS MEDIA AND TARGET COMMUNITIES HAVE CAPACITY TO PROMOTE POSITIVE ENGAGEMENT WITH GOVERNMENT ON ADVOCACY AND ACCOUNTABILITY ISSUES	9
4.3.3. OBJECTIVE FOUR: INDEPENDENT MEDIA OPERATES MORE PROFESSIONALLY.....	31
4.3.4. OBJECTIVE FIVE: COMMUNITY RADIO STATIONS ENGAGE WITH COMMUNITY, IMPROVE REACH AND HAVE THE TECHNICAL CAPACITY TO BETTER SERVE TARGETED COMMUNITIES.....	33
4.3.5. OBJECTIVE SIX: SMS TECHNOLOGY IS USED AS A LINK BETWEEN PEOPLE AND THEIR LEADERS.....	36
4.3.6. OBJECTIVE SEVEN: ENGAGE CIVIL SOCIETY AND THE MEDIA TO ADVANCE THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE RIGHT TO ACCESS TO INFORMATION.....	39
4.3.7. OBJECTIVE NINE: SOCIAL ENTERPRISES SUPPORT REGIONAL CSOS AND CRSS IN ATTAINING INSTITUTIONAL AND FINANCIAL SUSTAINABILITY	44
4.4. GENDER AND YOUTH.....	45
4.4.1. ENSURE EFFECTIVE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE GENDER AND YOUTH MAINSTREAMING STRATEGIES.....	45
4.4.2. SUPPORT IMPLEMENTATION OF THE “EVERYBODY’S BUSINESS” FORUMS AND WOMEN’S MEDIA EMPOWERMENT CLUBS	46
4.5. GRANTS.....	47
4.5.1. ENSURE COMPLIANCE WITH USAID AND IREX POLICIES (ONGOING)	47
4.5.2. PROVIDE SUPPORT TO ALL DEPARTMENTS AS NEEDED	47
4.6. MONITORING AND EVALUATION	47
4.6.1. ADMINISTER THE REVISED MONITORING AND EVALUATION PLAN FOR THE CE PERIOD (ONGOING).....	47
4.6.2. MANAGE CENTRALIZED SYSTEM FOR DATA COLLECTION (ONGOING)	48
4.7. SEARCH FOR COMMON GROUND	49
4.7.1. COMMUNITY BASED ORGANIZATIONS ARE SUPPORTING COMMUNITIES FOR THE REINTEGRATION OF EBOLA SURVIVORS AND MEMORIALIZATION OF THOSE WHO DIED	49
4.7.2. EQUIP CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS TO INFLUENCE GOVERNMENT POLICIES AT THE COUNTY LEVEL IN SUPPORT OF THE REINTEGRATION OF EBOLA SURVIVORS	52
4.7.3. PROMOTE HEALING AND FINAL CLOSURE FOR THOSE MOURNING THE LOSS OF LOVED ONES.....	52
5. ATTACHMENTS.....	53

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This Quarterly Report marks the final period of reporting for the Civil Society and Media Leadership (CSML) program in Liberia. Though the program will officially close-out in November, and activities are still ongoing, the final months of implementation (October and part of November) will be captured in the CSML Final Report. Over 5 ½ years ago, IREX implemented an ambitious and exciting program that aimed to empower the civil society and media sectors in Liberia, equipping them with the knowledge, skills and tools to achieve the ultimate program goal of “sustaining peace in Liberia through greater inclusion, giving a voice to, informing and engaging Liberian citizens.”

Though IREX and its partners are nearing the end of the Program, this month saw an increase in activities as compared to the previous quarter, as IREX ramped up activities once the Cost Extension (CE) was signed on June 29th, 2015. Under the CE, CSML focused all efforts on empowering civil society and media partners in 15 counties to understand and promote accountability of Ebola-related funding. The Ebola crisis presented an important test of these institutions to represent and communicate with Liberians responsibly, and ensure that essential information was disseminated to the farthest corners in the midst of a crisis. Subsequently, accountability for the funds that streamed into the country during the Ebola crisis emerged as a major priority issue for Liberians, and for USAID. Having built the capacity of these sectors over the previous 5 ½ years, IREX was pleased to have the opportunity to work with our Civil Society and Media partners to put what they have learned to the test in addressing such a pressing need.

During this quarter IREX partnered with thirteen Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) to train and mentor 688 community leaders in 41 communities in 11 counties in Liberia. Trainings focused on empowering organizations to better understand accountability and have the skills and confidence to seek information from their leaders. Special focus was put upon ensuring that citizens’ perspectives on usage of funds and dispersal of resources were heard, acknowledged, and incorporated into local, county, and national decision making. Liberia Media for Democratic Initiatives (LMDI) led Dialogues creating platforms for citizens to ask questions directly of their leaders and aired these conversations on the radio to broaden their impact and influence. IREX intensified coordination with The Carter Center this quarter, which continues its valuable efforts to raise awareness around the right to access information—essential to a national effort to promote accountability. A new partnership with Search for Common Ground also commenced this quarter, aiming to help communities most affected by Ebola properly honor those that passed, reflect upon the crisis, and plot a course for the future.

IREX worked through various media partners to enhance the national and local dialogue around accountability. At the national level, the Liberia Media Center (LMC) hosted Policy Dialogues to convene key national and international stakeholders on Ebola-related accountability issues including support for survivors and reopening of schools. LMC also led the establishment of the Tracking Aid Liberia website and Facebook page and training of journalists to follow up on Ebola funding promises and expenditures. Journalists also worked to promote accountability on the part of INGOs and the Government of Liberia, making data available and accessible via the website. Further training and mentoring was provided to 26 community radio stations in 15 counties – and unprecedented number of partner CRSs – to prepare them to report on accountability related issues impacting their county and their listeners.

The activities under this reporting period represent a juxtaposition of ramping up accountability-related programming while preparing to close out the CSML program. The IREX team and partners remain committed to ensuring that these final months of CSML demonstrate the cumulative learning from over five years. It has been a tremendous honor to contribute to the growth of the civil society and media sectors in Liberia, and we are confident that these final months will provide valuable opportunities for reflection and planning for the future.

2. PROGRAM PURPOSE

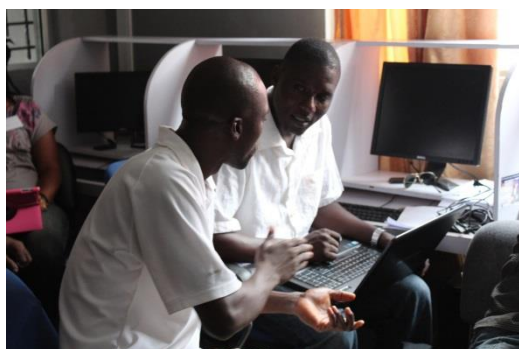
To sustain peace in Liberia through greater inclusion, giving a voice to, informing and engaging Liberian citizens.

3. PROGRAM RESULTS

Accountability Forums Create Unprecedented Platform for Government/Citizen Dialogue on Ebola-related Funds

A significant focus of CSML's activities under the Cost Extension (CE) is to empower community members with support from local CSOs to understand accountability and their right, as citizens, to information on how funds were spent. One CSO, Development Education Network-Liberia (DEN-L) worked with the community of Benefanai in Bong County to host a forum that was attended by 50 people including the acting District Commissioner, representative of the City Mayor, the paramount and clan chiefs. Each invited stakeholder reported on the materials and funds received, from whom they were received, and how they were distributed. At the end of the forum, the paramount chief on behalf of those invited to give account of resources handled, expressed gratitude to the team for organizing the forum. "Today, the leadership of the district has been invited by a handful of citizens to give account of materials and funds they received during the Ebola period," he said, "This same group, together with those of us who were invited to give account, can invite our county authorities and legislators to give account of their actions. The power to improve our district lies in our hands."

Magic FM Enhances Linkages with Listeners and Promotes Accountability through Usage of SMS Platform



In the months following IREX's launch of its SMS platform, MAGIC FM trailed the other pilot stations in usage of the tool. Perceived as overly complicated and not particularly meaningful for his station the Station Manager didn't encourage his team to use it and the platform sat stagnant, of no value to the station's listening audience in Buchanan, Grand Bassa County. However, since an upgrade of the platform that improved and simplified its functionality at the start of the CE period, MAGIC FM has become a standout station among their peers. Each month, Magic FM has created an average of six polls with each poll

receiving an average of 142 votes from listeners and this represents over 40% of the total polls produced by all partner stations. The Station Manager of MAGIC FM affirmed that the upgraded platform is an excellent tool to make government answerable and accountable to the people by revealing to them the will of the people and providing a platform for them to respond on air.

LMDI Dialogue Approach Results in Essential Information Sharing from Local Government on Ebola Accountability

LMDI's Dialogue program is widely known and respected in Liberia. The program adopts the town-hall approach bringing together residents of a particular community to discuss issues of importance with local government officials and/or other relevant stakeholders. Using this format to engage citizens and government on Ebola accountability has proven to be an excellent format for open, often heated discussion on usage of Ebola funds and resources. The forum in Black Jinnah, Jacobstown, began with the district Representative's announcement that Jacobstown had lost 132 people to Ebola.



He reported that his office received LD500,000 from a number of sources/donors and distributed it to dozens of communities, with each community receiving LD26,000 including Jacobstown. In light of this, citizens accused the Jacobstown community chairman of misapplying the LD26,000 given by the district representative, alleging that he and his son had used the money for personal use. The son was present in the audience and explained that he and

his father had used some funds to initiate a fund-raising rally to try to bring in more funds to better serve the community. However, he admitted that the rally had brought in no additional funds to date. Many in the audience refused to accept this explanation and insisted that the chairman and his son had misappropriated the LD26,000. The money debate was called off with the intervention of the LMDI moderator, who appealed for restitution of the full amount to restore confidence in the community leadership. The facilitator then suggested to the leadership that they learn from this experience to improve their communication and accountability with the people, and that decisions about allocations be reached in conjunction with the community. Forums like these provide an opportunity for citizens to engage those entrusted with resources to be used for the benefit of the community. Ordinarily, local and community leaders fail to report to the people. Under the cost extension, LMDI's Dialogue made it possible for the people to demand accountability from their leaders.

Journalists Utilize New Skills and Tools to Report on Accountability



Under the CE, four Situation Room (SR) reporters, 15 Monrovia-based journalists and 20 field researchers received training and mentoring to enhance their reporting on accountability of Ebola funds. One of the major stories produced by SR reporters focused on the Ganta Ebola Treatment Unit managed by Project Concern International (PCI). The organization received \$5.6 million to manage the facility that had been built by the U.S. Department of Defense. By the time the facility was built, the number of Ebola cases had dropped significantly. As a result, the Ganta ETU did not admit a single Ebola patient. Reporters said it was

their first time taking a look at numbers – money intended for the people - and having an opportunity to interview sources about how they spent public dollars. “One of the things that I learned from this accountability reporting is that we as reporters have to equip ourselves before going out there to speak to newsmakers,” said Julius Konton, of SKY-TV. “The project has given us a new perspective.” “We are excited that IREX is leaving us with something that we can carry on in terms of how we can make people and institutions who received money in the name of the Liberian people account for the money they received,” said Al Varney Rogers, of Frontpage Africa.

Zubah Town Community Leaders Design and Administer their own Survey on Ebola Distributions

After their accountability training, the community leaders of Zubah Town, Paynesville, charged themselves with reporting on Ebola assistance received in their communities, focusing on quantities and names of donors. The community leaders presented their findings at a community meeting on September 12 along with a household survey they designed to verify their own results. The residents were pleased with their leaders' voluntary transparency. The leaders then surveyed 169 households between September 15-22, and the report of their findings was compiled for a second community meeting scheduled for October 17. The report confirmed the block leaders' knowledge and distributions while also revealing that different communities received different assistance from NGOs, UNICEF, GOL/MOH, and especially political candidates and individuals. Items most frequently received by households were buckets; chlorine; plastic or rubber gloves, boots or raincoats; and food. “We have demonstrated that it was not a desire to claim transport refunds and food that inspired us to attend the accountability and leadership training in September,” the leaders wrote. “We were not commissioned to catch a rogue; we set out to understand who gave what, where, when and to whom...Maybe we have uncovered another dimension that answers the question why some people gave a few Ebola buckets and bags of rice to win votes in past Senatorial elections. Yes, it tells us that the GoL support was very insignificant compared to what came from donors, private sector, individuals and NGOs.” Thus the exercise demonstrated the leaders' commitment to pursuing the truth. While being satisfied with the results, they noted the tendency for personal



contributions to the Ebola fight from candidates for the December 2014 and how small the government's contributions appeared against those from the international community.

Media Managers are Motivated to Improve Content as a result of Media Monitoring Reports

As IREX's media partners hold INGOs, donors, and others accountable to Ebola-related funds, so too should media outlets be held accountable for their content. Findings from the Monthly Media Monitoring Report, produced by IREX's Media Coders, show a 10% increase in the number of Ebola accountability related stories reported by Monrovia based media between August and September. In August, approximately 29% of Ebola-related stories addressed the issue of accountability. These results, shared at the launch of the first report, inspired several Media Managers to increase their accountability coverage. "This is an eye-opener," shared Timothy Ben, Station Manager at Radio VERITAS, "we will try to do better." A follow-up Report in September pointed to a significant change with 39% of Ebola related stories focusing on accountability. Phillip Wesseh, Managing Editor of the Inquirer newspaper, said he was glad that his newspaper reported on the missing Ebola vehicles cited in an audit by the General Services Agency and how Global Communities spent Ebola funds. "Reporters don't typically go out and ask international organizations to account for how they spent money," he said. "This project gave us an opportunity to expand the way we cover the news. It changed the kind of reporting that we do in this country." Prior to CSML's accountability project, journalists were barely engaging authorities to account for the millions of dollars that went into the fight against Ebola.

4. PROGRAM ACTIVITIES

4.1. MANAGEMENT OVERVIEW

As indicated in the previous Quarterly Report, the CE of the CSML program was officially signed on June 29th, enabling the CSML team to commence full roll-out of CE activities throughout this quarter. Of the seven employees who received termination letters previous to the signing of the CE, five returned to the IREX team as of July 1st, including three Media Coders and two drivers. Since one staff member to not return was a Program Assistant, IREX hired Lovetta Yorkor during this period to serve as Program Assistant in this brief but very busy period.

As this quarter also marks the near completion of the CSML program, Program and Admin staff were busy throughout the period preparing close-out documents, informing partners of their impending close-out dates for grants (most of which are in October), and preparing to dispose of office equipment and supplies in accordance with USAID policy. Termination letters were also prepared by the Chief of Party for staff expected to leave CSML by the end of October. A smaller core staff will remain on through November to complete program close-out.

4.2. FINANCE, ADMINISTRATION, AND IT

4.2.1. FINANCE

4.2.1.1. PERFORM ROUTINE FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

4.2.1.1.1. ENSURE ONGOING FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT OF CSML (ONGOING)

The program burn rate was maintained during the reporting period as payments were made on subgrants, contracts, and trainings for facilitation of CE activities. Program expenditures amounted to \$883,000.00 representing approximately 40% of the CE budget of \$2,200,000.00.

4.2.1.1.2. PROVIDE SUPPORT TO SUBGRANTEES ON MILESTONE PAYMENTS AND OTHER FINANCIAL RELATED ACTIVITIES (JULY-OCTOBER)

During the quarter, the Finance Office worked with the Grants and Program Departments to process payments for thirty-one (31) subgrants for completion of several milestone activities outlined in various subgrant agreements under the CE period.

4.2.1.1.3. ENSURE CLOSEOUT CHECKLIST FOR FINANCE, ADMINISTRATION, AND GRANTS ARE FOLLOWED (AUGUST-NOVEMBER)

During the reporting period, the Finance Office worked with the Grants Office to draft closeout certificates for all subgrants in preparation for closeout of subgrant activities.

4.2.2. ADMINISTRATION

4.2.2.1. ENSURE THAT US-HIRES' DOCUMENTATION IS UP-TO-DATE (ONGOING)

The Admin Office completed renewal of a work permit for the Senior Civil Society Specialist at the Ministry of Labor during the quarter. All US hire's documents were updated during the reporting period.

4.2.2.2. REVIEW, UPDATE, AND ENSURE ALL PERSONNEL RECORDS ARE PROPERLY FILED (ONGOING)

One new staff was hired during the quarter to fill the position of Program Assistant, while five (5) former staff members were rehired for the positions of Media Coders (3) and drivers (2). All hard copy personnel documents for the newly hired and rehired individuals were properly filed.

4.2.2.3. RENEW OFFICE LEASE AGREEMENT AND OTHER SERVICE CONTRACTS (ONGOING)

The office lease and other service contracts were renewed for the CE period during the quarter.

4.2.2.4. ENSURE IKFO IS UPDATED ON A TIMELY BASIS (ONGOING)

During the quarter, the Admin Office completed and uploaded Personnel Action Forms along with other personnel documents for one new hired staff, and five rehired staff in iKFO, and successfully carried out all administrative activities.

4.2.2.5. PROCUREMENT

One new vehicle was procured for operations during the quarter.

4.2.3. IT

4.2.3.1. PROVIDE ONGOING IT SUPPORT AND MAINTENANCE TO IREX (ONGOING)

During the quarter, The ICT Officer provided basic ICT Maintenance and support to the IREX team throughout the period. This included recharging of staff modems and repairing of IREX's Office printer. He also assisted in the purchase and installation of new UPS batteries for the share drive.

4.2.3.2. PROVIDE IT SUPPORT TO CSML PARTNERS

4.2.3.2.1. SUPPORT LMC WITH IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SMS INITIATIVE

4.2.3.2.1.1. SUPPORT LMC WITH SERVER AND PLATFORM UPDATES (JULY)

In July, the IT Officer worked in partnership with the Senior Program Manager, LMC, and IT firm MWETANA to complete an upgrade of the SMS platform to improve functionality in time for the training of stations held in late July and early August (see section 4.3.5.1.1.1). The IT Officer also worked with the Finance Office and the LMC to purchase equipment to support the roll-out of the SMS initiative to 27 stations. This included bulk messages from Lonestar and Cellcom and two new laptops expected to be handed over to Radio Kintoma in Lofa County and Smile FM in Zwedru for implementation of the platform at their stations (the latter was not dispersed in light of leadership changes at the station resulting in the partnership with Smile FM to be indefinitely delayed). In September, the LMC encountered electricity fluctuations at their office which compromised the server system, leading the ICT Officer to assist the LMC team in partnership with MWETANA to conduct repairs and get the server up and running.

4.2.3.2.1.2. SUPPORT TRAINING OF 27 STATIONS ON SMS PLATFORM (JULY-AUGUST)

During the quarter, The IT Officer, Senior Program Manager, and LMC's IT Manager travelled to Tubmanburg, Bomi County; Gbarnga, Bong County; and Zwedru, Grand Gedeh County to conduct training for all CSML partner stations on usage of the newly updated SMS platform for usage on accountability-related issues (see section 4.3.5.1.1.3.). In Zwedru, the IT Officer led the full day training, focusing on introducing the revise tool, motivating the stations to buy in to the value of the tool for their stations, and leading a practical session that empowered the stations to build familiarity with the platform.

4.2.3.2.1.3. SUPPORT LMC WITH MENTORING OF PLATFORM OPERATORS AT 27 STATIONS (JULY-OCTOBER)

Following the training referenced in section 4.2.3.2.1.2., and throughout the reporting period, The IT Officer supported the LMC with mentoring of 27 CRSs across the country via telephone, and entering questions into the platform on behalf of stations experiencing connectivity challenges.

4.2.3.2.1.3.1. SUPPORT LMC WITH IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SITUATION ROOM

During the quarter, the IT Officer joined the situation Room team to participate in the four day training led by BudgIT on maintenance and content uploading for the Tracking Aid Liberia website (see section 4.3.2.1.1.1). The IT Officer participated in the training to enable him provide technical support to the LMC team as they update the website, which can be viewed at www.trackingaidliberia.org.

4.3. TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND CAPACITY BUILDING FOR CSOS AND FOR INDEPENDENT MEDIA

4.3.1. FULLY INTEGRATE CSML PARTNERS AND ENHANCE COLLABORATION

4.3.1.1. ENHANCE COLLABORATION WITHIN CSML

4.3.1.1.1. HOLD WEEKLY PROGRAM MEETINGS (ONGOING)

Throughout the quarter, the Program Team held weekly meetings on Tuesdays at 9am to discuss upcoming activities, coordinate travel and logistics, and brainstorm planning for assorted activities. With the signing of the CE on June 29th, this time period saw a full roll-out of activities necessitating frequent check-ins among staff.

4.3.1.2. ENHANCE COLLABORATION WITH AND AMONG PARTNERS

4.3.1.2.1. HOLD MONTHLY COORDINATION MEETINGS (JULY-OCTOBER)

Ten (10) representatives of Main Partners (6 males and 4 females) participated in a CSML Partners' Coordination Meeting and identified valuable opportunities for collaboration and partnership.

Under the CE Extension period, IREX planned to hold monthly coordination meetings with partners—learning from and building off of coordination meetings held during the Election period—to provide a valuable opportunity for all partners to share experiences and coordinate activities. The first Partners' Coordination Meeting was held August 26th, at which ten representatives of eight partner organizations (LMC, LIWOMAC, WANEP, WONGOSOL, NARDA, CEMESP, NAYMOTE, and DEN-L) joined IREX's Chief of Party and Program Team to discuss their upcoming activities, discuss ongoing challenges and share major successes. The meeting served as an important opportunity to coordinate activities among partners. For example LIWOMAC identified the need for additional mentoring to Women's Media Empowerment Clubs which NARDA and other RPs offered to facilitate, and the LMC reminded all partners that stories from their trainings and forums should be shared with the Situation Room to enable their researchers to follow-up on key accountability related issues. IREX emphasized to the partners the need to keep us informed on activity schedules to ensure we can conduct monitoring and that we can provide up-to-date and accurate information to USAID.

The Senior Program Manager sent notes from the meeting to all partners and staff after several days to help everyone keep track of the key decisions made and follow-up accordingly. By early September, some partners had already initiated several of the coordination-related suggestions raised at the meeting. The meeting expected to be held at the end of September was postponed to October 1st due to other activity engagements.

4.3.1.2.2. HOLD MEETINGS WITH TCC & SFCG TO COORDINATE ACTIVITIES (JULY)

IREX held several productive meetings in July with partners The Carter Center (TCC) and Search for Common Ground (SFCG) to coordinate activities and begin roll-out of activities under the CE.

On July 9th, IREX's Senior Program Manager, Civil Society, and Media Teams met with Alphonsus Zeon of TCC/ATI to discuss the inclusion of Freedom of Information (FOI) in IREX's accountability work, and ensure that our activities are coordinated and not creating unnecessary redundancies. IREX and TCC identified several opportunities for TCC and its network of FOI specialists to support IREX's accountability trainings— both in Monrovia and in the counties. This coordination includes both organizations' engagement with communities, civil society, and community radio.

Also on July 9th, IREX's Senior Program Manager met with Aaron Weah and Onike Freeman of SFCG to discuss the impending roll out of their activities under the CE. SFCG has planned to work through CSOs and CBOs to promote reintegration of survivors in Ebola-affected communities, promote advocacy among communities for enhanced government support for those affected by the crisis, and provide opportunities for memorialization of victims. During the meeting IREX and SFCG discussed expectations for reporting and ongoing coordination, and SFCG shared their criteria for selection of CSO/CBO partners.

The Senior Program Manager continued to meet with the SFCG team throughout this quarter to ensure progress on meeting program deliverables and trouble-shoot delays that were exhibited through the period. On September 17th, IREX's Senior Civil Society Specialist and Senior Program Manager met with SFCG Program Officer Aaron Weah to discuss concerns related to timelines of meeting deliverables and a delay in distributing small grants to local CSO partners. Despite the meeting's emphasis on the need to move forward with activities, delays have continued. In early October, IREX HQ will send a Warning Letter to SFCG explaining that termination of the award may be necessary if the required improvements are not made.

4.3.1.2.3. HOST END OF PROGRAM PARTNERS' MEETING (OCTOBER)

The IREX Senior Management Team held preliminary meetings on the End of Program Partners' Meeting in late September and have determined that the Meeting is likely to be held in mid-November. Preparations for this event will commence in October.

4.3.2. OBJECTIVE ONE: CSOS MEDIA AND TARGET COMMUNITIES HAVE CAPACITY TO PROMOTE POSITIVE ENGAGEMENT WITH GOVERNMENT ON ADVOCACY AND ACCOUNTABILITY ISSUES

4.3.2.1. EXPAND THE ROLE OF THE SITUATION ROOM IN PROMOTING TRANSPARENCY AND ACCOUNTABILITY

Thirty (30) representatives of INGOs, donors, and Liberian Government (23 males and 7 females) participated in an Accountability Forum hosted by IREX, LMC and MICAT to share expectations for the Situation Room.

One-hundred and six (106) people (83 males and 33 females) attended two LMC-led Policy Dialogues to discuss national-level Ebola-related accountability issues including survivor support and impacts of Ebola on the education system.

Early in the quarter, IREX met with eight international organizations to solicit their buy-in for the CE project on Accountability of Ebola funds.

From July 28-August 4, IREX's Senior Management team and staffers from the LMC's Situation Room held separate meetings with officials from Global Communities, International Rescue Committee, UNICEF, International Office of Migration, Medical Teams International, Samaritan's Purse, Project Concern International (PCI), and Save the Children.

Most of the partners overwhelmingly agreed on the importance of accountability and transparency and promised to provide information about the funds they received and the impact on local communities. Some provided great perspective on the use of Ebola funds and suggested story ideas for reporters to pursue.

While the INGOs embraced the project, some expressed concerns about releasing detailed information about the funds they received, wondering why IREX wanted to know about the funds and concerned as to how they would be portrayed in the media. During the meetings, IREX reiterated that the project was not designed to accuse donors and implementing partners of misusing funds but rather to give the public an understanding of how the Ebola funds were used in Liberia. IREX is leading by example by making its funding information available on the site.

In addition to these one-on-one engagements, IREX partnered with the LMC and the Ministry of Information, Cultural Affairs and Tourism (MICAT) to host a ½ day forum with donors and implementing partners to introduce and discuss the Situation Room (the Agenda for this forum is included with this report as Attachment 1). On August 13, 30 representatives of INGOs, donors, government and other national stakeholders (23 males and 7 females) attended the forum. The attendees included representatives from the World Bank, Global Communities, International Rescue Committee, Mercy Corps, UNICEF, OCHA, UNDP, Project Concerned International, the Ministry of Finance and the GEMS project.

The meeting sought to solicit buy-in and support from donors and implementing partners for the project. The forum also tried to allay the fears among INGOs that the project was an attempt to accuse them of misusing Ebola funds.

Former USAID Director John Mark Winfield and Liberia's Minister of Information Lewis Brown delivered special remarks. Brown underscored the importance of political and financial accountability. "We have to build institutions that are accountable to people, from the Legislature to the Executive," he said. "Until we get political accountability, where each of us can hold each of us accountable to each other, then financial accountability will be difficult to accomplish."

The USAID former director to Liberia called corruption the "vampire of Development. "It's a drain on our development efforts, " he said. "Holding everyone accountable is a cultural change that must occur in order for development dollars to take root and become sustainable."

Overall, the INGOs embraced the project, but many questioned whether the project would yield significant impact in a three-month span. The USAID director raised the possibility of providing more resources to continue the project. He said some of USAID's follow-on programs will address the issue of accountability and transparency.

Further contributing to this discussion on accountability, the LMC held two Policy Dialogues in September in Monrovia, bringing together various stakeholders from the Liberian government, INGOs, CSOs and media to discuss key Ebola-related accountability issues.

The first Dialogue held on September 3rd addressed the topic of “Survivors’ Welfare, Reintegration and Livelihood in Post-Ebola Liberia” and attracted 60 participants (49 males and 11 females). The panelists included three Ebola survivors and Gentry Taylor, General Services Manager/Project Manager at Samaritan’s Purse. Taylor provided an overview of Samaritan’s Purse’s role in supporting survivors including employing 300 of the nearly 2,000 Ebola survivors in public health awareness outreach roles. The three survivors talked about the financial support they received from some of the United Nations agencies, Save the Children, International Rescue Committee and Medicins San Frontiers and shared their personal stories of coping with Ebola and its side effects.

The second Policy Dialogue was held on September 25th and addressed the topic of “Post Ebola Recovery: Accountability and Impact on Government’s Education Agenda.” Forty six people (34 males and 12 females) attended and panelists included: Matthew K.F. Gorgeaboe, Planning Specialist at the Ministry of Education; Marx Domah, Education Program Officer for the Coalition for Transparency and Accountability in Education (COTAE) and Rev. Ellen Fatu Varfley, President of the National Teachers Association of Liberia. The panelists all acknowledged that the educational system was greatly impacted by Ebola as students’ education was delayed, some schools were not prepared to re-open, and payment for teachers was long delayed.

4.3.2.1.1.1. ESTABLISH EBOLA FUNDING TRACKING DATABASE IN PARTNERSHIP WITH LOCAL NGO (JULY)

In early July, IREX led a competitive process to select the CSO to manage the Situation Room project on the accountability of Ebola funds. Four CSOs responded to the Request For Application. After reviewing the applications and holding interviews with representative of the four CSOs, a panel consisting of IREX, USAID, the Carter Center, the Press Union of Liberia and the National Civil Society Council of Liberia selected the Liberia Media Center (LMC) as the CSO to manage the Situation Room. After the selection, IREX’s Media Team helped the LMC fine tune its proposal and developed a budget and more realistic timeline.

In early July, IREX contracted BudgIT, the Nigerian based firm to create the website to track Ebola funds and also train the managing CSO (since determined to be LMC as referenced above) how to manage it. BudgIT was founded in 2011 to analyze the Nigerian budget and help citizens understand and participate in the budget process. Before taking on the Situation Room project, BudgIT was working on a separate initiative to analyze international Ebola funds earmarked for Liberia, Guinea, Sierra Leone and Nigeria.

From July 20-24, a two-member team from BudgIT worked with the LMC’s six Situation Room staff to create the website platform and input data from a variety of sources including the Ministry of Finance, OCHA, USAID and Ebola Fund Watch. The BudgIT team worked with the LMC to design the website and develop thematic areas to feature content. The LMC team provided inputs on the content which included creating a link to the SMS opinion poll results, and featuring Ebola impact stories, a citizen’s forum and a section to post audio stories from the 15 counties. The URL for the website is www.trackingaidliberia.org.

Since the website went public, the LMC has faced numerous challenges inputting data and managing the site. Challenges include reconciling data from multiple sources and getting INGOs to follow-up on requests for additional information. The LMC sent follow-up letters to 33 INGOs asking for additional information about the funds they received and where they are implementing projects, but did not receive responses. An additional challenge is that the LMC had trouble accessing the backend of the site in order to enter information. To address this challenge, Dele Bakare, BudgIT’s web developer, visited Liberia in mid-August and again in late September to work directly alongside the Situation Room team and IREX’s IT officer to ensure the Liberia-based team has full access to the backend of the site, enabling them to perform sustained maintenance and oversight.

To facilitate progress on implementation of the website, IREX decided to hire a short-term consultant to provide direct oversight over the LMC team and ensure that expected deliverables are met. This individual was identified in late September and has since worked with both the LMC and BudgIT teams to make some changes to the site and have it fully populated. Significant progress has been made and the site now has valuable information/data on Ebola funding.

4.3.2.1.1.2. SELECT A TEAM OF FIELD RESEARCHERS FOR THE SITUATION ROOM (JULY)

In July, 20 community radio journalists were selected to provide field research reporting for the Situation Room. From July 20-25, 2015, local broadcast consultant Frank Sainworla teamed up with Nigerian-based consultant Lanre Arogundade to conduct a five-day training at the YMCA in Monrovia for the field researchers (15 males and 5 females). The Powerpoint from the training is included with this report as Attachment 2.

The researchers are responsible for providing content to the Situation Room on the impact of Ebola funding in the 15 counties. During the training, participants learned investigative tips on accountability reporting, how to track donor spending in their local communities, ethics in journalism, how to be conflict sensitive in their reporting, identify donor stakeholders and beneficiaries in their communities, develop story ideas on accountability of Ebola funds in their communities, develop sources, use data and information to tell the accountability story, the basics of research and investigative reporting and how to send information to the Situation Room.

IREX and the Liberia Media Center (LMC) explained the Situation Room and the researchers' role in it. The consultants worked with the researchers to develop specific story ideas in their communities and draft a reporting plan for them to pursue when they returned to their respective communities. To assist with their work, IREX and the LMC provided participants digital and video cameras to capture Ebola impact stories in their communities. The LMC also provided internet modems to enable reporters to file their stories.

Some of the stories produced by researchers since the training include one from reporter Philip T. Singbah, of Radio Gbarnga, who wrote about the \$354,000 UNICEF provided to 400 Ebola survivors in Bong, Lofa and Margibi counties. Another story from Radio Totota was a public accounting from the station itself on the Ebola-related funds it had received and how they were spent. Though stories are being submitted, generally there have been challenges with getting the researchers to produce quality stories on a regular basis as expected.

To increase the amount of stories collected for the website, IREX expanded the network of Situation Room contributing researchers to Monrovia-based partner outlets. In late August, the LMC officer-in-Charge, Frank Sainworla, the Media Mobilizer assigned to the Situation Room and the Senior Media Specialist met with CSML's Monrovia-based partners to solicit their buy-in. All the media managers expressed their commitment. With a concurrence from USAID, IREX provided the outlets computers, tape recorders and financial support to pursue stories related to the accountability of Ebola funds and resources. The additional support enabled some of the outlets to give reporters time to work on accountability stories. Julius Konton of SKY-TV and Antoinette Sendolo of Inquirer are among the productive reporters on the team. Konton produced eight reports and Sendolo produced five stories. Some of the stories they reported included the missing Ebola vehicles, the Ebola treatment Unit managed by PCI, and Global Communities' border surveillance projects in Cape Mount and Bomi counties.

4.3.2.1.1.3. PRODUCE AND PUBLISH MONTHLY REPORTS (AUGUST-OCTOBER)

Following the discussion at the Accountability Forum, referenced in section 4.3.2.1., the IREX team decided to cancel this activity. The overall goal of the Situation Room is to promote accountability through positive engagement and open communication, and the IREX team feared that this approach of reporting and publicizing results would send the wrong message and potentially foment frustrations among donors and INGOs, thus being counter-productive to our intended goals.

4.3.2.1.1.4. DEVELOP SOCIAL MEDIA PLATFORM TO PROMOTE REPORTS AND OTHER STORIES
EMANATING FROM SITUATION ROOM ACTIVITIES (AUGUST)

During the quarter, the LMC created the Tracking Aid Liberia Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/trackingaidliberia> to promote the website and stories emanating from the Situation Room. The page includes reports on the two policy dialogues hosted by the LMC to address support for Ebola survivors and Ebola's impact on the educational system and efforts to address it. The page also includes accountability stories posted on the Tracking Aid website and produced by media outlets participating in the project.

One of most popular stories on the site is the interview with General Services Agency's Director Mary Broh talking about the missing vehicles that had been donated for the fight against Ebola. She cited an audit which shows that of the 317 donated cars, only 200 were accounted for. The page also features stories about support for Ebola orphans and survivors.

During the quarter, the Facebook page registered 141 likes; reached 9,420 people; and had 626 total engagements (visitors who liked a story, posted comments or shared a link from the Facebook page).

4.3.2.1.1.5. PROMOTE ENGAGEMENT BETWEEN MEDIA ORGANIZATIONS/OUTLETS AND THE CSO
MANAGED TRACKER/DATABASE

4.3.2.1.1.5.1. HOST ONE-DAY EVENT TO INTRODUCE WEBSITE/DATABASE TO MEDIA
ORGANIZATIONS/OUTLETS (AUGUST)

IREX had planned to host a one-day event to introduce the Situation Room project to media outlets. Due to time constraints, the event was combined with the release of the first Media Content Analysis Tool (MCAT) report on how Monrovia-based media outlets reported accountability of Ebola funds. The event was held September 8, 2015, at the YMCA (see section 4.3.3.1.3.). IREX thought that the forum was the ideal place to talk to media managers about the project and solicit their buy-in.

4.3.2.2. STRENGTHEN CAPACITY OF COMMUNITY LEADERS AND CSOS TO PROMOTE ACCOUNTABILITY

The CS Team worked with the six Main Partners, CEMESP, and LMDI to develop proposals and finalize grant agreements for the CE period in early July. Several of the Main Partners were also asked to nominate a CSO they have been mentoring to work along with them to expand the work to more communities. Through this process six CSOs were selected. The MPs also made recommendations to the CS Team on the communities that best met the criteria established, and the 41 communities were identified and finalized in July.

4.3.2.2.1. PROVIDE TRAINING TO COMMUNITY LEADERS IN ACCOUNTABILITY, FOI, AND LEADERSHIP
(JULY-AUGUST)

4.3.2.2.1.1. DEVELOP TRAINING MATERIALS (JULY)

In early July national consultant Bill Saa was hired to develop the Accountability and Leadership training manual and materials as well as Training of Trainer (TOT) materials. He coordinated with the Liberian Anti-Corruption Commission, BudgIT, and TCC on parts of the materials. During the ToT, Saa and the MP trainees worked to finalize options and questions about the materials, and the final training manual and handouts were submitted to the CS Team at the conclusion of the ToT and carried by the MPs and CSOs to use them in training the communities. See the training materials, included with this report as Attachment 3.

4.3.2.2.1.2. DELIVER TOT AND CLF WORKSHOP TO MPS AND CSOS (JULY-AUGUST)

Forty-one (41) individuals (21 females and 20 males) took part in a TOT to finalize training materials and deliver training to community leaders on Accountability and Leadership.

Representatives of the 13 MPs and CSOs selected to work in communities on accountability were divided into two groups for a one-day CLF refresher workshop and four days of training on Accountability and Leadership. Forty-one individuals (21 females and 20 males) took part. One day of training was devoted to presentations

from BudgIT to introduce the trackingaidliberia website and to TCC on using the FOI law. The first TOT was delivered to the six MPs, CEMESP, and one CSO. The second week was for the remaining CSOs. Six CSOs—AGENDA, CODRA, CJPS, HICOD, UMWAE0, and BAWODA—were recommended by the MPs based on their experience, sound financial systems, and capacity to provide training and mentoring.

The Community Leaders' Forum (CLF) refresher workshop was held on July 13th and 20th to prepare the MPs and CSOs to lead CLFs with communities, learning from the experience of implementing similar forums in 2014. Led by the CE team in collaboration with the MPs themselves, the workshop prepared partners for community entry, emphasized the importance of engaging diverse voices in the forum, and walked partners through the steps of the CLF to ensure the greatest impact possible for communities. There was good discussion on challenges in implementing the project in three months (August-October) and challenges in implementing the content matter to people who do not normally expect accountability from those who handle funds on their behalf. In addition to discussion, the participants worked in groups to develop or finalize forms for the CLFs, including community reporting forms, cash request, cash payment, and mentoring checklist.

The four-day ToT on Accountability and Leadership covered the topics of defining accountability at all levels; understanding accountability in the context of Liberia and Ebola resources; identifying approaches, methods and strategies to promote accountability in the context of Liberia and Ebola resources; and leadership including defining and understanding leadership and attributes of good leaders. The presentation by TCC focused on Liberia's FOI law, the legal obligations of those who receive requests, and how partners and communities can use FOI in promoting accountability and transparency. BudgIT discussed the importance of data in accountability, and introduced the Situation Room and how similar resources have benefitted accountability promotion in Nigeria and throughout the region.

Participants raised serious questions about the difficulties they foresaw in implementing the project, in particular the challenges that communities would face in asking their leaders to account for Ebola resources. Some participants expressed concern that it might be difficult for citizens to get the right information to help them hold leaders accountable, and that the time for the implementation of the project was too short to gather the necessary information and hold persons responsible. However, most of those present felt that the project would initiate important conversations among citizens and their leaders and that these conversations might continue after the three months of the project.

4.3.2.2.1.3. DELIVER TRAINING TO COMMUNITIES (JULY-AUGUST)

Six hundred eighty-eight (688) community leaders were trained to understand that accountability of the government to its citizens is considered a basic human right. (Of 649 for whom records were reported, 364 were men and 285 women.)

The community leaders' trainings were challenging but rewarding. Many of them went slowly because of time needed for interpreting into indigenous languages. In some communities there was some knowledge of accountability but very little understanding of effective strategies in pursuing it. As Sam Darpolar of WANEP reported, "Engaging public officials on issues of accountability was seen as disrespecting your leaders or undermining authority, however, the training was an enlightenment to the community members where they realized that accountability was about rights and quality of service delivery." Participants were upbeat to hold their local leaders accountable for public funds and resources but were not knowledgeable in terms of the approach, strategies and how to research and collect data.

The community leaders found it eye opening to think of accountability as an inherent quality of good governance. In the Recommendations section of the training reports, several MPs and CSOs asked that the

training be continued in other communities: “That training be taken to other hard-to-reach areas as this training is the first of its kind and it serves as an eye opener for community members and leaders.”

Comments during training and from training evaluation forms included the following:

“From what I know, and what I see, corruption can never finish, before even thinking about asking our leaders to tell us how they use money or materials they receive for us. Well I will watch and see since times are changing and we ourselves have to change along with time. So we will make sure that this project works.” (A well-known 65-year old man of the Toe Town Traditional Council, facilitated by WANEP)

“Oooh yes! Thank you for the accountability training; we will use it for ourselves first before going to the people.” (Woman in Tubmanburg, facilitated by AGENDA)

“Accountability is not only for one person but it is for everyone; this training has made me guilty of some accountability issues in my home.” (group leader in Tubmanburg)

“I only knew that our leaders were responsible to manage everything, so I always accused them for being responsible for everything that did not go well in the community, but today I am happy that the training has taught me that there are constructive ways to engage our leaders and different strategies and approaches in holding them accountable.” (Woman from Rock Hill, Monrovia, facilitated by NAYMOTE)

“On the second day of the training, a woman brought a community chairlady, who had not been included, and explained that she could not afford to miss the training because the knowledge was interesting and would help her.” (Civil Compound and Millionaire Quarter, Gbarnga, reported by CODRA)

“A thousand miles has to begin from somewhere and this is where we have come” (Participant from a WANEP training)

“The workshop has taught us that as a leader you yourself should serve as role model, so accountability should be voluntary. We should not wait for people to ask us–this way we will be transparent.” (Woman in Lofa County, facilitated by YMCA)

“This training has added new skills and knowledge to my advocacy, especially with the phrase Change brings change,’ as mentioned by the facilitator.” (Participant in Bensonville, facilitated by WANEP)

“As a result of the discussion that linked leadership with transparency, the land administrator, who is like the owner of the entire community (on family reserved land), decided to include women, youth and elder representatives as members of the administrative board, which manages the community resources.” (Bluquelleh, from NAYMOTE report)

“We cannot read and write but we have knowledge to discuss issues on accountability.” (Woman in Klay, facilitated by AGENDA)

4.3.2.3. COLLABORATE WITH GOVERNMENT IN ITS PROMOTION OF ACCOUNTABILITY

4.3.2.3.1. COLLABORATE WITH LACC ON TRAINING MATERIALS (JULY)

The CS Team met with LACC Commissioner Abba Dolo three times before project implementation began to prepare the way for collaboration on training materials. She said they had materials that IREX could incorporate, but that because their staff did not have funds to carry the training outside of Monrovia they would be pleased if IREX could do so and also help their staff go upcountry. The CS Team therefore offered to involve their staff in its training design and delivery, to give them an opportunity to speak directly with citizens upcountry and

integrate different backgrounds and perspectives among the training team. When the training consultant was brought on, he engaged with the LACC, which shared materials. Because the CSML training is very narrowly focused on making community leaders aware of their right to pursue transparency and accountability with those entrusted with resources on their behalf and on methods for effective engagement, and the LACC material focused on the different kinds of corruption and definitions, one section from the LACC training on integrity was selected as the most useful section for our purpose, and it was incorporated into the training.

Perhaps because the Commissioner was out of the country and the primary contact in her absence was sick, there was no collaboration in training design beyond that. When the TOT for MPs was held, one representative of the LACC stopped by to observe for several hours but did not play a role in the training, explaining that he was not familiar with the material. During this period Commissioner Dolo was out of the country. On July 24 the Sr. Civil Society Specialist sent an email to the Commissioner to propose that LACC staff travel with partners delivering the training to upcountry communities and explaining the training and the context, with the completed training manual attached. Details of IREX's support in providing accommodations and per diem at the rates provided to all other partners were also explained. The Commissioner responded to say that all of IREX's points were well understood, and that she would forward the information to her staff and that after discussing the modalities she would revert to IREX. The training continued, but there was no further communication from LACC.

4.3.2.4. EMPOWER COMMUNITY LEADERS TO DEVELOP AND IMPLEMENT COMMUNITY-DRIVEN EBOLA RESPONSE PLANS THROUGH COMMUNITY LEADERS' FORUMS (CLFs) (JULY-OCTOBER)

Six hundred eighty-eight (688) community leaders were empowered through mentoring and practice to engage with higher officials and international donors for information they had never thought they could ask for before.

If the training in accountability was eye opening to most community leaders, planning and practicing it was almost revolutionary for them. As sections below demonstrate, there were some false starts and at least two instances of conflict within the leaders group as a result of training, but overall there was a groundswell of activity by normal citizens who had never before considered taking such steps.

4.3.2.4.1. HOLD CLFs TO IDENTIFY ISSUES AND DEVELOP ACTION PLANS (JULY-AUGUST)

Forty-one (41) communities held facilitated forums to identify issues related to lack of accountability for resources obtained for the Ebola crisis, select priority issues, and develop strategies for addressing them.

At the completion of each of the 41 community trainings, a fourth day was scheduled for the community leaders' forum. In this exercise they identified their issues related to Ebola accountability, selected priorities, and developed action plans for engaging leaders on the issues.

The table presents some of the priorities selected by community leaders during their CLFs.

Tienii, Grand Cape Mount

- The abandonment of the clinic during the crisis
- Distribution of food and buckets for Ebola
- Distribution of EVD kits to school

Sinje, Grand Cape Mount

- The abandonment of the Community Holding Center
- How many Ebola survivors are in our community and how are they benefitting from funds and resources donated?

- Distribution of Ebola materials in our community: how was it done?

Pago's Island, Montserrat

- Whereabouts of the motorcycle that was given by UNICEF to MCC for the Pago Island community.
- Impact of and distribution of the 300,000 LD to establish Ebola Task Forces
- 250.00 USD for active case finders and psychosocial support officers was not paid

Rock Hill, Montserrat

- Support received by the district task force, how it was used and what was given to Rock Hill community
- WFP and GSA - how they selected community members for distribution of items brought to the community

Virginia Waterside, Montserrat

- Limited support given to the community despite the high number of Ebola cases in the community
- The role MOH played in the community during the outbreak, given their constant visits to the community

Bluquellah, Margibi

- Distribution of materials by general town chief.
- Limited support given to the community by the government despite the huge number of cases and deaths in the community
- What was received WFP in Kakata for Ebola assistance, how much was allocated for Bluquellah

Civil Compound, Gbarnga, Bong

- How much food and non-food items the community should have received

Millionaire Quarter, Gbarnga, bong

- How much food and non-food items the community should have received.

Taylor-Ta, Bong

- How much food and non-food items the community should have received.

Gbartala, Bong

- Clan chiefs, District Health Officer, District Representative, Africare, Save the Children were active in the district during the Ebola pandemic

Suacoco ,Bong

- District Health Officer, District Representative, Forum for African Women Education (FAWE), Save the Children, Suacoco City Mayor, Suacoco District Paramount Chief, Yelequellah District Commissioner, Suacoco District Health Officer, Phebe Hospital Administration were active in the district during the Ebola pandemic

Belefanai,Bong

- Town chiefs and general town chiefs in Gwilapolu, Kpaquellie, and Zota Clan, Boisville Township

Commissioner, Belefenai District Paramount Chief, Belefenai District Commissioner were active in the district during the Ebola pandemic

Foequelleh, Bong

- District Ebola Taskforce, Clinics OICs, District Health Officers, Principal of Schools were active in the district during the Ebola pandemic

Bunadin, Nimba

- District Ebola Taskforce, Clinics OICs, District Health Officers, Principal of Schools, five prominent citizens were active in the district during the Ebola pandemic

Zuluyee, Nimba

- Chiefs served as focus persons to many institutions and individuals that did Ebola work in the district.

Brooklyn, Gbarnga, Bong

- Caritas, Liberia National Red Cross, Save the children, 20 community selected community leaders were active in the district during the Ebola pandemic

Bensonville, Montserrado

- LD150,000 received by the Careysburg District Superintendent
- The construction of Community Care Center (C.C.C) and the Triage at the Bensonville Hospital
- The funds/materials given to district #1 by The Liberia Maritime Authority
- Rice received from Government Services Agency (G.S.A) by the district #1 Representative

Nyehn, Montserrado

- LD90,000 given to the district from the County Development Fund
- The quantity of medical supplies received by the Nyehn health center
- The quantity of materials supplied by Concern World to the Todee districts and how was distribution done

Toe Town, Grand Gedeh

- Poor information sharing on ebola resources
- Health workers did not attend to citizens when they needed care during the outbreak of Ebola virus
- Lack of awareness on the quarantine procedure
- The distribution of food/ration was not transparent

Kanweaken, River Gee

- LD75.000 withdrawn from the River Gee County social development fund, how was it expended
- LD10,000 received by the LMTU from the County Finance Officer
- Payment for sixty nine (69) persons who were trained and work during the Ebola crisis and have not been paid

Harper, Maryland

- To engage the UNMIL Authority in Maryland County for the names and numbers of CBOs and NGOs who benefited from their Ebola funds and how the funds were being used
- To engage the Rotary Club on funds sent to Maryland to fight Ebola.
- To engage the Tubman University to know how much funds were received, how it was expended and the beneficiaries

Compound #1, Grand Bassa

- Reopening of Clinics
- Material received by Clinic in Compound #1
- Community lack information on Money and other Resources (Hand Sanitizers, Food Ration , Bucket received by District Superintendent, District Commissioner, Clan and Paramount Chief

Harlandville, Grand Bassa

- The outcome of relief truck of Rice that was in route to Buchanan and was arrested at Owengrove Check point
- US\$ 5000 given to the District for the Community
- Four (4) Motorbike given by LAC
- 3,000USD Cash and thermometer provided by Red Cross

Soul Clinic, Montserrado

- Distribution of nets carried out by Liberia Care for Humanity INC. (LICH) without community being informed
- Mismanagement of Ebola Fund has caused conflict between community dwellers and leaders in Block B and C

New Georgia Estate

- Community members are not Informed about Ebola funds and Resources Received by New Georgia Chairperson, Representative and block leaders
- Ebola Survivors/Orphans

Wayzohn, Compound #3, Grand Bassa

- Ebola Resources brought to community were not distributed evenly
- Lack of information on four (4) Motorbikes given by Liberia Agriculture Company (LAC)

Buchanan, Grand Bassa

- 9.5 Million LD that was received by BACHT from GOL through MOH
- Food Ration (Rice, Beans, Oil) provided by WFP to G-Bassa for Ebola survivors and affected family
- US\$100,000 that was approved by the Bassa Legislative Caucus from the County Development Fund

Jartu Town, Banjor, Montserrado

- US\$ 500 donated to Banjor Ebola taskforce by Amb. George through Rep. Darkel
- Support to the Banjor clinic during the Ebola outbreak

Salayea, Lofa

- Ineffective communication resulting to relationship problems between leaders and citizens

Zorzor, Lofa

- Limited information sharing about use of Ebola resources

Foya, Lofa

- Need for proper information sharing on funds and materials received in Foya District
- Misdirection and misuse of Ebola resources intended for survivors

Kolahun, Lofa

- Nonresponsive leadership practices on Ebola funds and materials

Voinjama, Lofa

- Lack of transparency in handling and management of Ebola funds and materials

Quardou Gboni, Lofa

- Limited services/benefits for Ebola survivors/victims
- Limited information on Ebola resources

4.3.2.4.2. MENTOR COMMUNITIES IN CARRYING OUT THE WORK OF THEIR ACTION PLANS (AUGUST-OCTOBER)

Forty-one (41) communities engaged target stakeholders—government or NGO representatives—to request accountability for Ebola funds or resources they managed.

Citizens of Harlandville, Grand Bassa County, filed an FOI request to the County Superintendent.

Citizens of Zubah Town, Paynesville, Montserrado County, designed and implemented a survey of goods and funds received and produced a report.

As the communities completed their training and CLFs, the MPs set up mentoring schedules based on the CLF action points. Most communities identified more action points than they could work with in the limited time period, so the mentors guided them in prioritizing of the first two or three. While these points were the focus, mentoring was needed to teach some of the basic skills required, which of course could be applied to other instances in the future. For example, community leaders were mentored in writing invitation letter to stakeholders targeted for community engagement forums, preparation of meeting agendas, how to record meeting notes, and facilitating engagement meetings. Letter writing proved very important to them as the primary way to “seek an audience” with a higher official. Thus as a result of the mentoring engagements, many of the community leaders learned useful skills for implementing the activities in their action plans and for future activities.

“On several occasions, I have refused to record meeting minutes for the youth group in my community because I do not know how to do it. The mentoring session on ‘recording meeting minutes’ actually helped me learn skills in recording meeting minutes. With this skill I will surely help the group record accurate meeting minutes. I am also confident of taking the initiative of

recording meeting minutes for the community youth group.” (resident of Belefenai, Bong County, beneficiary of DENL mentoring)

Summaries of the communities’ activities under mentorship from the partners follow:

DENL and its CSO partner Center for Justice and Peace Studies (CJPS): 7 communities

Belefenai, Bong County

In September the Belefenai CLF group wrote letters to twelve stakeholders and actors that handled Ebola crisis funds and resources in Zota District, inviting them to a community engagement forum to give account of Ebola materials and funds. The forum was held with a total of 50 persons including the acting District Commissioner, representative of the City Mayor, the paramount and clan chiefs. Each invited stakeholder reported on the materials and funds received, from whom they were received, and how they were distributed, but the presentations sparked a number of issues during the question and answer period. First, citizens were dissatisfied with the absence of the District Commissioner (DC) and the report given by his representative, which did not provide information on the use of US\$800 received as the district’s share of County Social Development Funds. Secondly citizens were unhappy at the absence of the city mayor who, they believed, received Ebola materials and funds to fight the disease and so needed to provide information on how they were used.

At the end of the forum, the paramount chief on behalf of those invited to give account of resources handled, expressed gratitude to the team for organizing the forum. “This forum is good,” he said. “Today, the leadership of the district has been invited by a handful of citizens to give account of materials and funds they received during the Ebola period. This same group, together with those of us who were invited to give account, can invite our county authorities and legislators to give account of their actions. The power to improve our district lies in our hands.” The paramount chief congratulated the sponsor of the forum and pleaded for continued support as they continue with the engagement process.

Foequelleh, Bong County

The CLF group in Foequelleh reached out to the District Ebola Task Force, District Health Officer (DHO), clinic Officers in Charge (OICs), and school principals for information about their use of Ebola resources and carried out engagements with several of them. A forum was held in September, attended by 60 persons. Citizens of Panta district reportedly were astonished that their leaders were converging in Foequelleh town to give accounts of Ebola resources and materials that they received. Accustomed to not hearing from their leaders, some said they considered themselves to be “untouchables” when it comes to giving an account of resources. As it turned out, some authorities felt threatened, witch hunted or too insecure to avail themselves for the meeting at first. The CLF team met with them and took some time convincing them that no one wanted to undermine their jobs, and that their appearance could actually reduce negative perceptions about how Ebola funds were used. This process took time, as did the problem of finding motorbikes within the district to attend meetings and deliver letters. Nonetheless, in the end the meeting was held and the officials took part and responded to questions from participants. .

Gbartala, Bong County

The Gbartala community leaders wrote letters to seven stakeholders in Yelequelleh District—District Health Officer (DHO), District Representative, city mayor, Paramount Chief, District Commissioner, Africare, and Save the Children—requesting that they share copies of their Ebola reports (both narrative and financial), and in some cases for face-to-face meetings. They held meetings with the City Mayor, the Paramount Chief, and the District Commissioner, all of whom provided written Ebola reports. In addition, the District’s Representative shared his report of what he distributed in the district during the Ebola crisis. As a result of the meetings and

responses, the group planned to hold a one-day community engagement forum in October where the group will present the reports received and open them to the audience for questions and answers.

Suakoko, Bong County

The Suakoko Accountability Forum Team wrote letters to five actors who handled Ebola materials and funds, inviting them to meetings and for reports of the materials and funds they received. During the period under review, the group held four face-to-face meetings and received positive responses from the District Commissioner, Paramount Chief, the City Mayor, and a local women's group, Forum for African Women Education (FAWE). These successes led them to plan a Community Engagement Forum in October, and they sent out letters.

Brooklyn Community, Bong County

The Brooklyn community leaders identified the Red Cross, CARITAS, and Save the Children to target for information on the use of Ebola resources in their community. They met with Red Cross and CARITAS in September and planned a meeting with Save the Children in early October. Then all will be invited to a town hall meeting to jointly inform the community.

Bunadin, Nimba County

Like their Bong County counterparts, the trained leaders in Bunadin distributed letters to those who handled Ebola materials and funds in Meinpea Mahn District, including the District Ebola Task Force, clinic OICs, DHOs, school principals, and five prominent citizens, and as a result held meetings with two of them. In September the group distributed letters of invitation to stakeholders and actors targeted for the community engagement forum to be held in October.

Zuluyee, Nimba County

The CLF group in Zuluyee, Bain-Garr District, prepared and delivered letters to clan chiefs and zonal chiefs, ten town chiefs, the Paramount Chief, and the District Commissioner, and held meetings with two of them in September. They then sent out invitation letters for a community engagement forum in October.

NARDA and its CSO partner Actions for Genuine Development Alternatives (AGENDA): 4 communities

Sinje, Grand Cape Mount County

The Sinje community leaders held a community town hall meeting on September 24 that brought together 58 persons (37 men, 21 women) including town chief, dean of elders, District Education Officer, religious leaders, and student groups. Two key issues were the status of the Ebola Treatment Unit (ETU) and the holding center. These facilities were not in use, and there were rumors that they were to be dismantled without discussion with community members. Mutual understanding was reached when it was explained that part of the land on which the holding center was erected belonged to a private citizen who was never fully compensated for it, while the ETU was built on property belonging to SOS. Further engagements by the community leaders group yielded more results; the District Commissioner provided written documents on the information sought, and the regional manager of SLPP, a local NGO sent information on their involvement during the Ebola crisis.

Sinje's leaders embraced the engagement strategies after their training and the town hall meeting. The town chief has vowed to hold monthly town hall meetings where he will provide a regular update report to the community, outlining activities and accounting for any community or public funds and materials entrusted to him. The dean of elders, the most powerful traditional leader of Sinje, has pledged to ensure the full participation of both youth and other groups in future negotiations with any group in their community. The

women's leader also pledged to involve the youth in all activities concerning them. Stakeholders and citizens have been invited to a roundtable discussion with their elected representatives scheduled for October 10 to outline what they have done and plan next steps.

Tienii Community, Grand Cape Mount County

Community leaders in Tienii held a community dialogue meeting in September with the Paramount Chief, town chief, elders, religious leaders, youth leaders, the disabled community and a cross section of community dwellers, with 60 people in attendance. Information gathered from various stakeholders was shared, and the County Coordinator of LIURD, a local NGO, was lauded for providing clarity on Ebola related distributions. However, the absence of the District Commissioner, who was considered to have key information, led to the call for a roundtable that has been scheduled for Saturday, October 3, with their elected national leaders and their Commissioner, to discuss the issue of the welfare of Ebola orphans.

NARDA reports that the training and mentoring activities have strengthened community structures; the community leaders' group are holding regular meetings in which they make constant follow up on their issues and keep everyone informed. They are looking beyond this project and thinking of involving all of Tewor District in the issues of accountability, as several outlying communities where the Ebola outbreak was more severe.

Klay, Bomi County

Activities in Klay included the preparation and distribution of letters to stakeholders, receiving responses, and planning a roundtable. The County Superintendent has replied and offered to be present at the roundtable in October. The town chief, women's leader and other organizations have provided information, which were discussed with the entire town at a town hall meeting at the end of September.

Tubmanburg, Bomi County

After the community leaders' training and CLF in Tubmanburg, the mentors began encountering serious challenges. The leaders refused to accept community assistance funds in amounts as they were needed, but rather wanted it all at once. AGENDA and NARDA staff went as a group to discuss the purpose and principles of the program and explain how the short timeframe did not allow for the setting up of proper accounting procedures within the community. With constant visits and interaction by AGENDA, a few group members began some of the work of their action plan, but it quickly stalled again, seemingly led by one member who appeared more focused on the funds than the project goals. After a second meeting, AGENDA reported that they recommended breaking off the work with the community and prepared a letter to them stating that their goals appeared to be at odds.

NAYMOTE and its CSO partner Community Development and Research Agency (CODRA): 7 communities

Pago's Island, District 5, Montserrado County

Letters were sent to targeted officials including the Mayor of the Monrovia City Cooperation, who was asked about the whereabouts of motorbikes given by UNICEF to MCC for the community and the Township Commissioner about the use of LD300,000 given to establish Ebola Taskforces in communities and US\$250 given for active case finders and psychosocial support officers. The superintendent was written to inquire on the funds and materials given by the superintendent's office. After several days of fruitless follow ups, both onsite and via mobile phones, community leaders decided to hold a mass community meeting inviting these leaders along with the district representative, which was held September 26. A member of the Representative of District #5 office, the District Development Council Chairman, and Congo town township Commissioner were all present. They spoke on Ebola resources that they received from donors (NGOs, government agencies and private donors) and distributed and provided clarity on personal contributions and donations for Pago's Island community.

Rock Hill, Montserrat County

The Rock Hill community leaders sent letters to the WFP Ebola Program Manager and GSA Director General for information on the criteria for selection of beneficiaries for distribution of food and other items and to the District Development Council Chairman for clarity on the district's contributions to the community and the recruitment procedures for members of the district Ebola taskforce. They then held a meeting where several of the actors they targeted provided clarity on funds used and materials distributed by Samaritan's Purse. Their district Representative spoke about funds and materials that came from the government and other donors to the district and how much was allotted for each community. As follow up to the meeting, community members will collect the district #6 taskforce report and hold a radio talk show on the report that was promised to be shared by the deputy taskforce coordinator at the meeting.

Virginia Waterside, Montserrat County

The Virginia Waterside community engaged the township commissioner to ask why the community did not receive support from the township despite its high number of Ebola cases, the District #17 Representative for inquiry on Ebola resources received for the district and how they were utilized, and the Ebola Program Manager/Ministry of Health to seek clarity on the role MOH played in their constant visits to the community during the Ebola outbreak. Community leaders held a one-day community meeting, at which the secretary of the township's anti Ebola task force spoke on the work of the taskforce. The only panelist also promised to share a copy of the Taskforce's report with the community. Based on the discussions, the community has planned to hold a one-day radio program on the report and the work they did in the community.

Bluquelleh, Margibi County

The Bluquelleh leader's team sent letters to the District Health officer, the County Inspector, and the Cinta Township Commissioner, and they came to Bluquelleh for a meeting on September 23. The assembly of 125 people felt that the answers given there were not satisfactory, so they now have plans to engage the superintendent and the former district health officer (who recently resigned).

Taylor Ta, Bong County

Community leaders in Taylor Ta wrote WFP to gather information on the support it gave the community during the Ebola outbreak. WFP did not respond to the written communications, and the community has followed up by trying to gather a report of their activities in the community. They invited WFP to take part in a multi-community roundtable on Ebola funds accountability for Bong County in October.

Millionaire Quarter and Civil Compound

Millionaire quarter and Civil Compound wrote several letters to Red Cross, Caritas, the Bong Health Team and Helping Hands to acquire information on the resources given to the community and pursue accountability. After a long period of follow up without written responses, the community leaders changed their approach by scheduling a one-day community meeting on accountability in early October, and they have gotten positive responses.

West African Network for Peacebuilding (WANEP): 5 communities

Nyehn, Montserrat County

The issues in Nyehn concerned LD90,000 given to the district from the County Development Funds, the amount of medical supplies received at the health center and how they were used while the center was inactive, funds used and distributed by Concern Worldwide and ZOA, funds spent by Global Communities for staff salaries, and how much money was distributed by Mercy Corps/YMCA and how the beneficiaries were selected. For the question about funds provided by Mercy Corps/YMCA, the WANEP mentor phoned a YMCA representative during the mentoring session, and it turned out the representative was also in Todee District at the time and was able to come and join the meeting and satisfactorily answer all questions.

Bensonville, Montserrado County

The community leaders in Bensonville had four primary issues. They formed themselves into committees and prepared letters to their targeted stakeholders: the Careysburg District Superintendent about LD150,000 he reportedly received, the hospital administrator about the construction and use of the Community Care Center, the head of the Liberia Maritime Authority about funds and materials they received for that district, and the YMCA about the process of selecting recipients for distributions of \$42. The letters were sent and the committees tried to follow up with the recipients, but were not able to by the end of the reporting period. They will schedule a large meeting in October.

Toe Town, Grand Gedeh County

The Toe Town Accountability Committee chose as their first accountability issue poor information sharing and in response resolved to set a good example by making information sharing about their own activities a priority. They developed a radio show disseminating information from the action plan to the general public. There was also engagement with the Listening Club established by LIWOMAC in Zwedru on basic strategies they could use in engaging their leaders to account. Regarding poor information sharing on Ebola resources, the leaders engaged the Gbarzon District Chairlady and were able to obtain a list of materials distributed and the number of persons who received them. Another issue was that health workers did not attend to citizens when they needed care during the Ebola virus. They were able to meet with the OIC, who explained that during the crisis the clinic did not have the personnel nor the logistical support to tend to patients. There were other questions concerning resources, and the committee wrote letters to several of the key actors in the district with mixed results. They are planning a town hall meeting in October to explain to their fellow residents what they have done and learned.

The two counties of River Gee and Maryland may have had the greatest difficulty in pursuing their objectives under the project. WANEP reported that committee members were challenged to get the transportation they needed to pursue meetings and that they would like to continue if they had more time.

Kanweaken, River Gee County

The Kanweaken leaders' committee divided itself into four groups to engage the key stakeholders in the four communities in the district. All the committees wrote letters for information on Ebola resources. One of their issues is how funds withdrawn from the River Gee County Development Funds were distributed across the county and how decisions on it were made. A second one was that 69 persons who were trained and worked during the crisis were not paid. The last one was for various INGOs and national NGOs—including ARC, LNRC, SEWODA, OICI, GAA, and Samaritan's Purse—to explain what they were doing in the district during the crisis, what materials they brought, and how they were distributed. The committee is also providing information to the community about their work.

Harper, Maryland County

The issues identified by the community leaders in Harper led them to write letters to the County Ebola Task Force, the county UNMIL authority, the Rotary Club, and Tubman University to account for how they used funds and resources at their disposal. At the time of this report full information had not been received on what progress they may have made.

Women NGO Secretariat of Liberia (WONGOSOL) and its CSO partners Bassa Women Development Association (BAWODA) and United Muslim Women Advocacy and Empowerment Organization (UMWAEO): 8 communities

Wayzohn, Compound III: Grand Bassa County

The Wayzohn community leaders met with the DHO, OIC, and the General Town Chief on September 10 to obtain information on the supply of anti-Ebola buckets and chlorine and the constant shortage of medications at the community clinic. It was agreed that a bigger meeting should be held where a majority of the community members could be present. This meeting, a “Community Meeting for Accountability,” took place on September 26. Perhaps its most important outcome was the understanding residents gained about how such open meetings will help to minimize corruption and promote transparency and accountability. At the end of the meeting, the community leaders decided to immediately form a new committee to organize a community town hall meeting with the same concerns of Ebola money and materials, but to use different strategies in inviting the relevant stakeholders and ensuring that they give accounts of what was entrusted to them. The first meeting is scheduled for the second week in October.

Compound I: Grand Bassa County

The Compound I team planned to have an initial dialogue with the District Superintendent, commissioner, DHO and Paramount chief to gather information on money, buckets and other resources distributed during the epidemic, and they agreed to a forum on September 26. After the meeting was begun, the District Superintendent asked that it be adjourned and rescheduled because he said he had not been fully informed and did not have documents he needed to be able to give a full report. The next meeting is to occur in early October.

Harlandville, Grand Bassa County

The highest priority in the Harlandville leaders’ action plan was to learn the outcome of a relief truck of rice that was enroute to Buchanan during the Ebola crisis when it was arrested by the police at Owen’s Grove checkpoint. A committee from the CLF team met with the staff of their District Representative, who confirmed that the truck was arrested by the Grand Bassa Police detachment. From there they planned to engage the police detachment.

The community leaders also filed an FOI request to the County Superintendent requesting a detailed report on the number of anti-Ebola buckets, chlorine, and hand sanitizers given to the county by the National Ebola Task Force. A meeting will be held on October 8.

Central Buchanan, Grand Bassa County

The CLF members met with the deputy commander of the Grand Bassa Police Detail on the distribution of money intended for police officers who took extra responsibilities during the crisis. He said he was aware of three officers from the Grand Bassa detail who received LD\$21,000 each through deposits in their personal accounts by the central government. Team members also visited the District Education Officer in Buchanan in relation to money intended for private school teachers. The DHO said he was not informed officially about money for private school teachers and referred them to the County Education Officer.

New Georgia Community: Montserrat County

The New Georgia Housing Estate and surrounding community had a lot of Ebola cases during the peak of the virus. This district is also known for having one of the best legislators who sought and obtained resources including ambulances to fight the virus. The community members wanted the Representative to make a full report of all the money and resources he received during the fight—the amounts, sources, quantity and how many zone leaders received items. A forum for him to provide the information was held at the beginning of October and will be reported on for the next reporting period.

Nicklay Community: Montserrat County

One key issue discussed during the mentoring sessions had to do with LD26,000 that was given by their Representative for survivors of Ebola and other people who were affected/quarantined. Members of the CLF met with the overall Community Chairperson about it, and he said he is only answerable to the Representative and not to any other person or group. A community forum has been planned to address the issue and other concerns, and the Community Chairperson understands that he will be asked to provide information there.

Soul Clinic Community: Montserrado County

The mentoring sessions focused on the payment of school fees for two youth who were Ebola survivors as well as Ebola orphans. According to members of the Soul Clinic CLF, Hope World International promised to have paid the tuition for the two orphans, but tuition was only paid for one. They also stressed that during the Ebola outbreak, Liberia Care for Humanity Inc. (LICH) distributed buckets, hand sanitizers, soap and other items, but most people in the community did not receive them. An appointment was made and three members met at the LICH office. They were told that the distribution was done through a ticketing process whereby family heads registered their names and received supplies. The distribution was done with by LICH staff and trusted community leaders, who were also present at the meeting.

Jartu Town, Montserrado County

Three priorities in the Jartu Town action plan were drugs given to the clinic OIC during the height of the crisis, Ebola materials brought by various NGOs, and the amount of \$500 given to the District 17 Representatives by Senator Weah. The community leaders have scheduled meetings with several donors, including CODES, CARITAS, ACF, and Samaritan Purse. A meeting with the Senator is waiting until he returns from an overseas trip.

Young Men's Christian Association of Liberia (YMCA) and its CSO partner Humanitarian Initiative for Community Development (HICOD): 7 communities

Salayea, Lofa County

The accountability issues identified in Salayea were limited information to community members about Ebola funds, uncoordinated citizens' approach for engagement of leaders on issues of accountability around Ebola funds and resources, and ineffective communication resulting in relationship problems between leaders and citizens. The community leaders engaged the commissioner, who was able to provide information about the use of Ebola funds. A follow up meeting has been scheduled in October for the commissioner to provide information to a large group of community members. Community leaders also sent a letter to the DHO to request a comprehensive list of funds and materials and how they were directed, to then be discussed at a leadership meeting with the DHO.

Zorzor, Lofa County

The Zorzor city mayor was engaged to give account of Ebola resources and materials he received. He appeared on a local radio and informed the public that his office received from government the amount of US\$565. He said that this amount was used to create awareness in Zorzor and satellite towns and villages. Awareness was carried out by a door-to-door awareness team and by a local radio station.

Samodu and Barkedu of Quardu Gboni District

Key issues revolved around limited services and benefits for Ebola survivors and limited information on Ebola resources. The OIC of Barkedu was engaged by community leaders to give account of Ebola resources he received. He agreed to provide information but he wanted to do it in a larger gathering. A town hall meeting has been arranged to take place in October.

Voinjama, Lofa County

The district commissioner was engaged by the Voinjama community leaders' team, and he provided information on the use of funds. The Superintendent of Lofa County was asked by the Paramount Chief and other local leaders to give account of Ebola resources, but he said he did not have time to respond to their request given that it was impromptu.

Kolahun, Lofa County

The Kolahun community leaders' issues were nonresponsive leadership practices on Ebola funds and materials, unclear information sharing with citizens on Ebola funds and materials, and limited knowledge and organization

of citizens on social accountability processes for Ebola funds and materials. Community leaders visited a Mercy Corps post-Ebola materials distribution site and requested information about the distribution relative to beneficiaries and quantity of items. They have also scheduled a meeting in October to hear from more of the people who held Ebola resources.

Foya, Lofa County

Community leaders in Foya were concerned about misdirection and misuse of Ebola resources intended for survivors and limited information sharing in general. They requested audiences with two quarter chiefs, who complied with the requests and set dates for further communications in October. The team was also able to meet the district health officer for an update on the use of the Ebola funds, and a follow up meeting is scheduled before the end of October.

Center for Media Studies and Peacebuilding (CEMESP): 3 communities

Banjor, Montserrado County

In this community, a committee of 5 persons set up by the community leaders met with the OIC of the Health Center on September 12 to make an inquiry about the poor facility and under supply of medication to the center. The OIC asked for time to get back to them on the matter. She promised to provide a response at the end of the month with statistics and records.

St. Paul Bridge, Montserrado County

On September 19, a community meeting was held by the eight community block leaders to share reports of Ebola resources received and distributed by them. The meeting had 72 persons in attendance. On September 23 they set up a survey team for tracking Ebola resources brought into the community by INGO's, NGOs, GoL, CSOs, CBOs and others.

Zubah Town, Montserrado County

The community leaders charged themselves with investigating and reporting what was received in each of their seven blocks, with quantities and names of donors, and brought the results to a mass meeting of residents September 12. The residents accepted their reports, along with a survey form the CLF leaders brought to the meeting to administer to households in each of the blocks. A team of seven persons conducted a survey within the community September 15- 22 to validate the community leaders' report. The report of their findings was prepared, and a second mass meeting is scheduled for October where the team will present the report. A copy of this report is included within this quarterly as Attachment 4.

4.3.2.4.3. PROVIDE FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR COMMUNITY ACCOUNTABILITY-RELATED ACTIVITIES (AUGUST-OCTOBER)

All partners submitted requests for funds for communities to purchase assorted stationery for communication and documentation purposes, facilitate distribution and follow-up on letters to target stakeholders, provide feeding for persons attending various community engagement forums, and pay for transportation of community leaders who traveled from faraway places to participate in the engagement forums. Because of the short timeframe and because the community leaders were an informal group of residents only brought together for the purpose of this project, the lack of structures and procedures for bookkeeping and potential for conflict over the funds were a concern. The CS Team and MPs designed a form for making funding requests with a detailed breakdown of anticipated expenses and requirement that they be signed by community-designated persons or backup persons. Many of the communities' request forms did not adequately explain the costs, and the CS Team had to work with the mentoring partner to mentor their communities better and submit revised forms.

Given the potential for conflict over unused money, the partners' FOGs provided milestones for requesting funds in small amounts upon the submission of receipts for earlier funds received. This way adequate amounts

would be available for very active communities while less motivated communities would not have unused funds. It was thus projected that most of the FOGs would leave unused funds toward the end that could be re-allocated for other communities or activities.

4.3.2.5. ENHANCE COMMUNICATION CHANNELS BETWEEN COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS THROUGH CITIZEN/GOVERNMENT ROUNDTABLES (AUGUST-OCTOBER)

Eleven (11) communities had opportunities to engage with or observe their leaders demonstrating transparency and accountability in large accessible settings, while radio listeners across the country were able to hear them.

The Liberia Media for Democratic Initiatives (LMDI) was given a subgrant by IREX to use its popular radio program, the Dialogue to create a space for citizens to ask their leaders to account for money and resources received to battle the Ebola Virus Disease. . The project works by setting up large gatherings where public officials address the citizens and hold moderated dialogues captured for distribution to radio stations. Because of assumptions and suspicions that most of the resources taken to the communities were not given to the appropriate people, the LMDI Dialogue forums during the quarter brought together government officials and higher level community leaders, those assumed to be responsible for managing these resources. The objectives were to answer some of the questions around mismanagement and create an open space for continued dialogue among citizens and their leaders.

During the quarter LMDI held forums in 11 communities that reported a high number of Ebola cases and deaths, thus causing many NGOs and private citizens to provide resources to people either in ETUs, quarantine, or in some cases, an entire community. They were in five counties, as listed below:

- Westpoint, Montserrado
- Jacobs town, Montserrado
- Black Jinnah, Montserrado
- Mt. Barclay, Montserrado
- Dolo's Town, Margibi
- Nedownehn, Margibi
- Marshall, Margibi
- Buchanan, Grand Bassa
- Jenneh Wonde, Grand Cape Mount
- Bo Waterside, Grand Cape Mount
- Gbolokai Ta, Bong

Some highlights follow:

The people of Nedonwehn, the town last hit by a small outbreak of EVD in May 2015, reported that they were quarantined for 21 days and denied food and other essentials promised by the Liberian Government and partners. They said that for weeks during and after their quarantine, they only received florescent flashlights for a few people, which they believed was sheer cover-up for the misuse of the required materials. Nedonwehn's citizens also reported the issuance of ration tickets without any accompanying real food or other materials by the Save the Children UK, WFP, and the Liberian National Red Cross Society. Also during the forum, the citizens accused their superintendent of not visiting with them during their struggle. The superintendent apologized and promised to address their concerns about the failure of government and partners to live up to their promises to provide food and other material rations.

During the forum in Jenneh Wonde, community members were concerned about Ebola survivors and orphans. There did not appear to be a structured way of delivering services to them; two NGOs and UNICEF have in past months given them money, seemingly without coordination. One NGO gave LD1,250, UNICEF gave US\$100, and another NGO gave \$US50 to each survivor. The citizens were able to make a request for a more coordinated approach to the services coming in and to know when these services will end.

Another Dialogue forum was held in Gbolokai Town, a town of 700 people that was hard hit by Ebola, with more than 50 deaths. The town moved completely from its original setting because of the fear and trauma felt in their old location, which is now a virtual Ebola graveyard. Gbolokai Town has its own stories of alleged Ebola resource corruption. The town claims that NGOs in cohort with their local leadership did not register all Ebola survivors and orphans and registered some that were ineligible.

The Dialogue forums will continue through October.

4.3.2.5.1. MP AND COMMUNITY COORDINATE WITH GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS (AUGUST-OCTOBER)

Section 4.3.2.4.2. discusses activities in which communities with guidance from their mentors are reaching out to and coordinating with local government officials, from the County Superintendents and elected Representatives to district level officials and traditional chiefs at all levels.

4.3.2.6. ENHANCE THE ABILITY OF MONROVIA-BASED AND COMMUNITY RADIO JOURNALISTS TO REPORT RESPONSIBLY AND ACCURATELY ON EBOLA-RELATED FUNDING AND ACCOUNTABILITY ISSUES

4.3.2.6.1. CONDUCT TRAINING OF TRAINERS FOR MEDIA MOBILIZERS AND MEDIA MAIN PARTNERS ON ACCOUNTABILITY (JULY)

Five media professionals (four males and 1 female) participated in a Training of Trainers to prepare them to train and mentor Monrovia-based and community radio media outlets to report responsibly on accountability-related issues

During the quarter, Nigeria-based media consultant Lanre Arougundade conducted a ToT on Accountability reporting for four media trainers in the IREX conference room. The training, which ran from July 13-17, prepared those attending to train Monrovia-based and community radio journalists.

Trainees learned about the framework of accountability reporting, how to track Ebola funds, identify stakeholders and beneficiaries, report accountability in a conflict sensitive manner, mentor journalists in accountability reporting, and develop training plans.

Also, during the training, Oluseun Onigbinde, team leader of BudgIT, introduced the participants to the Ebola tracking website (see section 4.3.2.1.1.1.) as a reporting tool on accountability. Another session was led by Alphonsus Zeon of the Carter Center's Access to Information (TCC/ATI) team to help the participants better understand the role of FOI in accountability.

The trainees included veteran journalists Frank Sainworla, Korta Dogba, Varney Kamara, Michael Toh and Eliza Dahn, a lead trainer at the Liberia Women Media Action Committee (LIWOMAC). Lanre's training module is included with this report as Attachment 5.

4.3.2.6.1.1. TRAIN MONROVIA-BASED REPORTERS AND CRS JOURNALISTS TO CREATE CONTENT ON ACCOUNTABILITY AND PURSUE INVESTIGATIVE REPORTING STORIES (JULY-AUGUST)

A total of sixty-seven (79) Monrovia-based and community radio journalists (68 males and 11 females) participated in training on Accountability reporting and content creation led by Media Mobilizers.

During the period under review, IREX delivered four separate Accountability Reporting trainings for Monrovia-based and community radio journalists. The trainings focused on teaching journalists how to develop stories on accountability of Ebola funds, identify stakeholders and beneficiaries of Ebola funds, how to develop stories in their communities, balance reporting, script writing, news writing, conflict sensitive reporting and how to produce content for talk shows and develop stories based on reports and data from the Situation Room.

From July 28-August 1, Media Mobilizer Frank Sainworla facilitated Accountability Training for sixteen reporters (10 males and 6 females) at the YWCA in Congo town, Monrovia. At the Monrovia training, the head of the Ebola Survivors Network and representatives from Global Communities and UNICEF were among some key stakeholders who provided tips to Monrovia-based reporters on how to develop story ideas on Accountability of Ebola funds.

Three regional trainings were held in Zwedru, Gbarnga and Tubmanburg from July 29-August 1 and a total of 63 CRS journalists (58 males and 5 females) participated in the trainings. Media Mobilizer Michael Toe facilitated the training for 10 community radio journalists, representing five radio stations. Varney Kamara facilitated training for 30 community radio journalists, representing 15 community radio stations; and Korta Dogba facilitated training for 15 journalists from seven radio stations.

4.3.2.6.1.2. PROVIDE TARGETED MENTORING TO FEMALE JOURNALISTS TO IMPROVE ACCOUNTABILITY REPORTING (AUGUST-SEPTEMBER)

In August, LIWOMAC selected 20 young women to participate in mentoring on accountability reporting based on their experience reporting actively throughout the Ebola crisis. The women participated in four separate trainings at Radio Life, in Zorzor, Lofa County; Radio Bong Mines, in Bong County; Radio Kerghemahn in Nimba County and the Voice of Rural Montserrado, Bensonville.

The Lofa training was held from August 24-25; Bong County training was held from August 27-28; the Nimba training was held from August 31-September 1. The training in Montserrado is planned for October.

The young women learned how to identify and report stories on issues that affected women during the Ebola crisis, and received advanced training in script writing, news production and interviewing. LIWOMAC also helped the women develop story ideas including support for women Ebola survivors, status of women farmers post-Ebola, support for women who were quarantined in their homes and Ebola orphans. The team helped the young women identify sources for their stories.

Each of the young women received \$40 to pursue their stories. The young women organized into teams of four to pursue the story ideas developed during the training. The young women in Zorzor produced a story on the challenges women farmers faced during the Ebola crisis. The story talked about the support the women received from the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) to resume rice planting. The story was aired on Radio Life in Zorzor. The Bong County team produced a story about Ebola orphans that was aired on Bong Mines Community Radio. Radio Kerghemahn aired a report on Ebola survivors produced by the team from Nimba County. Voice of Rural Montserrado aired a two-part report on Ebola orphans and survivors produced by the team from Montserrado.

4.3.3. OBJECTIVE FOUR: INDEPENDENT MEDIA OPERATES MORE PROFESSIONALLY

4.3.3.1. ENHANCE MONITORING AND ASSESSMENT OF MEDIA PARTNERS

4.3.3.1.1. MONROVIA-BASED OUTLETS

4.3.3.1.1.1. CONDUCT REFRESHER TRAINING FOR MEDIA CODERS ON CODING ACCOUNTABILITY REPORTING (JULY)

During the last quarter, the Media Team revised the MCAT tool to include categories to examine the extent to which accountability of Ebola funds is featured in Monrovia-based outlets and the community radio sector. The new tool among other things examined media content for sources on accountability, whether the story addressed the impact of Ebola funds, where the story was featured on the radio or newspaper and also monitored for the basic standards of journalism: fairness, accuracy, objectivity, grammar, relevance and gender diversity.

On July 3, the Senior Media Specialist and Sol Plaatje Fellow and IREX consultant Samuka Konneh conducted a one-day refresher training for the three media coders on how to use the tool.

The MCAT targeted nine newspapers and five radio stations: Daily Observer, Heritage, Public Agenda, Informer, Frontpage Africa, Women Voices, Inprofile, New Democrat and Inquirer newspapers. The radio stations included: Fabric, SKY-FM, ELBC, Truth FM and Radio Veritas. Six of the outlets, 5 papers and 2 radio stations, were selected because they are CSML partners, chosen in the early years of CSML through competitive processes – Public Agenda, Informer, Women Voices, Heritage, and Inquirer newspapers, and SKY FM. Also included were 3 leading dailies and 4 of the leading radio stations that focus on news and features, and one randomly selected newspaper.

4.3.3.1.1.2. CONDUCT MCAT FOR MONROVIA-BASED OUTLETS (AUGUST-OCTOBER)

During the quarter, the three media coders assisted by IREX's Media & Monitoring Team monitored nine newspapers and five radio stations to determine to what extent accountability of Ebola funds was featured in news content.

The monitoring of Monrovia-based media outlets conducted during the quarter showed that political stories continue to dominate media coverage in Liberia. Of the 1,190 stories monitored from the 14 media outlets in July and August, 140 were related to Ebola, a mere 12%. Of those 140 stories, 40 related to accountability of Ebola funds and resources. The stories ranged from reports about donations, pledges, and complaints about benefits to Ebola workers.

The September monitoring showed some improvements by media outlets. Media monitors coded 175 Ebola related stories after reviewing 1,050 stories published in the 14 targeted Monrovia-based outlets. Stories on accountability of Ebola funds accounted for 69 of the 175 Ebola-related stories; that's 17% of the stories monitored from the 14 outlets in one month compared to 12% of the stories monitored for two months – July to August.

4.3.3.1.2. COMMUNITY RADIO STATIONS

4.3.3.1.2.1. CONDUCT MCAT FOR CRSs (AUGUST-OCTOBER)

There were numerous challenges conducting the MCAT for community radio stations. The plan was to begin gathering content after the training when stations would begin using their skills to gather and produce content on how Ebola funds and resources were spent in their local communities. The stations were not producing content fast enough to send to Monrovia for coding. The Association of Liberia Community Radios (ALICOR) and the community radio mobilizers had difficulty collecting recorded CDs of weekly programs from the stations. Bad road conditions caused by heavy rains were also another factor, according to ALICOR.

IREX targeted 28 stations, but only 26 stations participated in the MCAT. SMILE FM in Zwedru was dropped from the program because it was experiencing leadership problems. Rivercess Broadcasting System did not participate because it was also facing some leadership problems. Technical breakdowns also hampered some stations' ability to participate in the monitoring. Some of the stations like Radio Bomi, and Radio MARWOPNET in Grand Cape Mount experienced technical problems and were off the air intermittently throughout the monitoring period. Voice of Webbo remained off the air as they completed the construction of their new building.

In September, IREX hired Sol Plaatje Fellow Gradijah Walker to code and analyze the content of community radio stations. The contract with the CRSs required them to produce two talk shows a week; two news stories a week; 2 SMS polls a week; and conduct two "Everybody Business" forums a month. Based on the contract, IREX expected the 26 stations to produce 52 programs in each of the required categories, with the exception of Everybody's Business

forums. Preliminary analysis showed that the stations produced 30 talk shows, 31 news stories, 24 SMS opinion polls and 17 “Everybody Business” forums. Some of the stations that performed well in the monitoring include: Radio Kintoma in Voinjama, Lofa County; Karn, Voice of Peace, in Karnplay, Nimba County; Radio Totota in Bong County; and Magic FM in Buchanan.

IREX was editing the CRS media monitoring report in late September. When finalized, it will be released in mid-October at an event being organized in Gbarnga by ALICOR. Due to the challenges in collecting the CDs for analysis and the time-frame of the project, ALICOR will only hold one forum to release the Community Radio Stations’ MCAT results.

4.3.3.1.3. SHARE MCAT FINDINGS OF MEDIA MONITORING REPORTS WITH PUL, SITUATION ROOM, ALICOR AND CEMESP TO DISCUSS WITH THEIR MEDIA OUTLETS (AUGUST-OCTOBER)

During the quarter, the Center for Media Studies and Peace Building (CEMESP) organized one forum to release findings of the July/August Media Monitoring Report on accountability of Ebola funds. The first forum was held on September 8th at the YMCA on Crown Hill. Forty-nine media managers (33 males and 16 females) attended the event. Press Union President Abdullai Kamara launched the report: “Monitoring the Monitor: Measuring the Media’s Performance in Reporting on Accountability of Ebola Funds and Resources in Liberia.”

Many of the media managers welcomed the report and expressed the content as enlightening. Some managers who were not involved in the CE project said they wished they had the opportunity to participate in the training, so they could expand their coverage of Ebola.

The September Media Monitoring Report was being completed in late September and will be released in early October. However, preliminary results indicate an improvement in coverage of accountability-related issues. The July/August and September Media Monitoring Reports are included with this document as Attachment 6 and 7.

As mentioned ALICOR will hold a forum to release the Community Radio Stations’ MCAT results in October. (see section 4.3.3.1.2.1.).

4.3.4. OBJECTIVE FIVE: COMMUNITY RADIO STATIONS ENGAGE WITH COMMUNITY, IMPROVE REACH AND HAVE THE TECHNICAL CAPACITY TO BETTER SERVE TARGETED COMMUNITIES

4.3.4.1. EXPAND TECHNICAL SUPPORT TO CRSS IN 15 COUNTIES

4.3.4.1.1. ASSESS TECHNICAL CAPACITY OF CRSS (JULY)

In July, the LMC lead technician traveled to Lofa, Gbarpolu and Gbarnga to conduct a technical assessment of eight community radio stations. The stations targeted included Radio Gbarnga and Super Bongese in Gbarnga; Tamba Taikor, Vahun Community Radio Station, Radio Kintoma and Radio Life, all in Lofa; and Voice of Kpo in Gbarpolu. The technician inspected the stations’ transmitter and studio equipment to see if they were working properly. The technician also provided a refresher training to studio operators to ensure that they have the capacity to respond to basic repairs and identify areas for them to work on during the regional trainings planned for August and September (see section 4.3.4.1.3).

4.3.4.1.2. CREATE HELP DESK AT ALICOR TO RESPOND TO TECHNICAL PROBLEMS FROM CRSS (JULY)

In August, ALICOR created the Help Desk to field technical calls from community radio stations around the country and dispatch Regional Service Technicians, in partnership with the LMC. Community Radio Stations were informed of the new resource via text messages sent by ALICOR. Since its inception, the Help Desk has received 11 calls from community radio stations requesting technical assistance. During the quarter, ALICOR worked in collaboration with the LMC to respond to breakdowns at Radio Karn, Radio Sehwei, Radio Tappitta, all in Nimba County; Radio Bong Mines in Bong County; Radio Life, Radio Tamba Taikor and Radio Vahun, all in Lofa; and Radio Bomi, in Bomi County; Radio Kpo in Gbarpolu, Radio Mawopnet in Grand Cape Mount; and Magic FM in Buchanan.

Alexander Kukah, Station Manager at Radio Bong Mines, said the Help Desk came to his rescue when the station went off the air on September 12th after a storm knocked down the Cellcom Tower, knocking down the transmitter's antennae and cable. The station was off the air for five days. Regional Service Technician Akoi Tellowayan fixed the station's smaller transmitter to enable them to return to the airwaves a week after the storm. This is a temporary solution and the smaller transmitter limits the station's reach to three counties from six, however the station won't be able to assess the extent of the damage on the transmitter until after Cellcom fixes their tower, Kukah said.

4.3.4.1.3. CONTINUE TRAINING AND MENTORING OF STUDIO OPERATORS AND TECHNICIANS (AUGUST-OCTOBER)

During the quarter, the LMC lead technician conducted four regional trainings in August and September for studio operators. Studio operators received technical skills to adequately maintain and repair radio equipment. The trainings were held at partner radio stations to give studio technicians hands-on experience, including Magic FM in Buchanan, Grand Bassa County; Super Bongese in Gbarnga, Bong County; Radio Kerghemahn in Ganta, Nimba County; and Smile FM in Zwedru, Grand Gedeh County.

The technical assessment and training highlighted some major problems facing community radio stations. The LMC technician observed that some stations are losing their staff. Attrition is a recurring problem in the community radio sector. The assessment also showed that some stations lack tools to perform basic servicing and maintenance, while some suffer from depreciation of equipment and the lack of adequate skills and training for operating and maintaining equipment. This is especially true for stations that were not part of CSML's original hub of 20 partners. "Over the years, some stations' technical situation declined when personnel who ran the daily operation of the equipment had to leave for greater opportunities, " LMC Lead Technician Marcus Shamu said. "We need to encourage station management teams to have an attractive stipend that will motivate personnel to remain."

4.3.4.2. ENHANCE MANAGEMENT OF EQUIPMENT RESOURCE POOL (ERP)

4.3.4.2.1. ESTABLISH THE ERP (JULY)

The three managing partners of the Equipment Resource Pool (ERP) met at IREX in mid-July to discuss their individual roles and responsibilities in managing the entity that will provide much needed spare parts for community radio stations. The attendees were: Lamii Kpargoi, Officer-in-Charge of the LMC; William Quire, President, ALICOR; and Weade Kobbah Wureh, Vice President of the University of Liberia.

Following the meeting, the partners created a bank account for the ERP on which three partners are signatories. Kpargoi prepared the articles of incorporation that will enable the ERP to register in order to open the bank account. IREX guided the ERP management team during the process. The team held several follow-up meetings to finalize their plans.

Also, during the quarter, IREX obtained a concurrence from USAID to allow the University to receive a grant to provide a safe space to store the equipment at its Fendell Campus.

IREX provided the partners with a list of the spare parts purchased for the ERP, and they worked together to price the items. The equipment was moved to the UL Fendell Campus in September.

4.3.4.2.1.1. DEVELOP A SUSTAINABILITY PLAN FOR ERP (AUGUST-OCTOBER)

In September, the Equipment Resource Pool (ERP) team submitted to IREX a draft business plan that includes a section on sustainability. IREX's Media Team reviewed the report and is working with the ERP managing partners to finalize the document in early October.

In the sustainability section, the ERP team plans to nurture its relationship with Digital Broadcast (DB) in Italy, so that they can receive spare parts on time. The managing partners also plan to pursue other grants and develop a marketing strategy to increase sales. The plan provided very few details on attaining sustainability, so IREX is working with the partners to improve the document to be resubmitted in October.

4.3.4.3. STRENGTHEN THE ROLE OF CITIZENS AND IN PARTICULAR WOMEN AS CONSUMERS OF COMMUNITY RADIO AND ACTIVE PARTICIPANTS IN CONTENT PRODUCTION

4.3.4.3.1. HOLD “EVERYBODY BUSINESS” FORUMS IN EXISTING CSML COUNTIES AND EXPAND TO EIGHT NEW COUNTIES TO FOCUS ON GOVERNMENT EXPENDITURES AND EBOLA INTERVENTIONS (JULY-OCTOBER)

During the quarter, LIWOMAC mentored six community radio stations on how to conduct “Everybody Business” forums on accountability of Ebola funds. The LIWOMAC team co-facilitated the forums with three stations in Nimba County: Radio Saclepea, Radio Sehnwei and Radio Karn. The team co-facilitated forums with Radio Kakata in Margibi County; and Radio Gbarnga and Radio Bong Mines, both in Bong County. The accountability of Ebola resources for survivors was the major theme of all six forums.

The “Everybody Business” Forum with Radio Saclepea was held on September 14 and focused on resources for Ebola survivors in the county. About 100 people attended the event on the main street in Saclepea.

Radio Sehnwei’s forum in Sanniquellie was held at the OAU Square on September 16th for an audience of approximately 75 people. Participants were concerned about food rations that were distributed in the community. One character, who lost his wife to Ebola, complained about the lack of support for survivors. During the drama, some spectators expressed concerns about the way Ebola resources were distributed in the community.

Radio Karn took its “Everybody Business” forum to the town of Behplay, about a 30 minute drive from Karnplay. The drama was held on September 18th for an audience of approximately 60 people, and focused on pushing county and town officials to account for all the Ebola resources that came to the community. “

Radio Gbarnga’s forum was held on September 19 in the Civil Compound Community Block 1. About 50 people gathered to watch the drama which focused on 10 people who lost their lives to Ebola in one community. The community was caring for five orphans. In the drama, the community chairman was accused of giving Ebola resources to his family members. None of the orphans received support. The audience chimed in. They accused international organizations of not distributing the resources fairly. Some communities were left out.

More than 100 people attended Radio Kakata’s forum in front of the radio station, near the Telecom Community on September 14th. Residents in Kakata expressed outrage about the distribution of food and other resources in the community and they called on the county to appoint a new community chair because the current leader misused the resources.

Nearly 80 people attended Radio Bong Mines’ forum on September 21st in the village of Mawah, about 30-minutes from Bong Mines. The community lost 36 people to Ebola and has 18 survivors. The forum also focused on the distribution of Ebola resources. Some residents said they only received two of the five rations they were promised from the World Food Programme and expressed desire to talk to WFP authorities to discuss the discrepancies. In addition to the forums co-facilitated by LIWOMAC another ten forums were held by CRSs, bringing the total number of forums to 17 held during this quarter. LIWOMAC plans to co-facilitate seven more forums in October.

4.3.4.3.2. EXPAND WOMEN’S MEDIA EMPOWERMENT CLUBS IN ADDITIONAL 8 COUNTIES AND STRENGTHEN THEIR CAPACITY TO IDENTIFY AND REPORT ON ISSUES OF ACCOUNTABILITY AND TRANSPARENCY (JULY-OCTOBER)

During the quarter, LIWOMAC expanded the Women's Media Empowerment clubs to eight new counties to focus on accountability of Ebola funds. The new counties include: Lofa, Bomi, Gbarpolu, Grand Cape Mount, Margibi, Nimba, Grand Gedeh and River Gee.

Working in collaboration with IREX's Gender and Youth Manager, LIWOMAC dispatched two teams to conduct simultaneous trainings from August 9-24 for a total of 200 women, with each of the clubs sending 25 women. The training focused on enhancing women's capacity to identify Ebola accountability issues specific to their experiences. Women also learned how to engage stakeholders in their communities and use radio as a tool to gather information on accountability. Women's rights and access to information was also a major part of the training. Several of these clubs already demonstrated notable progress following the training. The Club in River Gee initiated a talk show program on Radio Gee along with a representative of an INGO to discuss disbursement of resources and the extent to which women felt excluded in the process. The Club in Grand Gedeh held a public drama focused on women's access to health care during the crisis in partnership with Smile FM, which aired the drama. The Gbarpolu Club also held a drama with the local radio station on women's participation in decision making during the crisis, which was attended by the Superintendent and hospital administration. The Clubs in Grand Bassa County and Chicken Soup Factory in Montserrado County also held internal meetings to plan for upcoming engagements in October.

LIWOMAC also conducted Accountability training for a total of 75 women in four different locations, all of whom are members of previously established Women's Media Empowerment Clubs in Montserrado, Grand Bassa and Bong counties. Key issues that the women flagged included limited participation of women in the Ebola management processes and unfair distribution of Ebola resources in communities. The team supported the Clubs to develop Action Plans to help them engage key stakeholders to give account of Ebola management and resources. The activities planned included meeting with community leaders, dramatizing key issues of concern, and conducting radio talk shows in collaboration with the CRSs. See additional information in section 4.4.2.1.

Following the training, 12 clubs received \$350 each to implement activities aimed at engaging women in a conversation about Ebola accountability issues that affect them. Some of the clubs have already demonstrated notable progress following the training. The Club in River Gee initiated a talk show program on Radio Gee along with a representative of an INGO to discuss disbursement of resources and the extent to which women felt excluded in the process. The Club in Grand Gedeh held a public drama focused on women's access to health care during the crisis in partnership with Smile FM, which aired the drama. The Gbarpolu Club also held a drama with the local radio station on women's participation in decision making during the crisis, which was attended by the Superintendent and hospital administration. Members of the club in Grand Cape Mount participated in a talk show where they talked about Ebola funds and resources that came into their community. The Clubs in Grand Bassa County and Chicken Soup Factory in Montserrado County also held internal meetings to plan for upcoming engagements in October. These activities have opened up the space to engage on Ebola-related accountability issues of particular interest to women; questions are being asked, new truths are emerging and in response, people are engaged in discussions about whether funds and resources were used to the benefit of the people or misappropriated.

4.3.5. OBJECTIVE SIX: SMS TECHNOLOGY IS USED AS A LINK BETWEEN PEOPLE AND THEIR LEADERS

4.3.5.1. EXPAND USAGE AND ENSURE SUSTAINABILITY OF SMS PLATFORM

4.3.5.1.1. EXPAND SMS PLATFORM TO 27 PARTNER STATIONS

4.3.5.1.1.1. SIMPLIFY SMS PLATFORM TO IMPROVE FUNCTIONALITY AND USER-END EXPERIENCE (JULY)

In early July, IREX signed a contract with Liberian IT firm MWETANA to simplify the SMS platform to improve its functionality and usability by CRSs. The direction for these adjustments was determined as a result of lessons

learned from the roll out of the SMS platform to 27 stations during the ECAP program. IREX's Senior Program Manager and IT Officer and the LMC SMS team worked directly with MWETANA through in-person and telephone engagement throughout the month to provide feedback on the adjustments, and the updated platform was finalized on July 29th, just in time for the training of community radio stations, described in section 4.3.5.1.1.3. The improved platform includes a simplified coding system which listeners use to participate in the Opinion Poll, and a more clearly organized frontend and backend to the platform which make the platform easier to use for the stations, and the results easier to observe for IREX and the LMC team.

4.3.5.1.1.2. HOLD TOT FOR MEDIA MOBILIZERS IN UPDATED SMS PLATFORM (JULY)

On July 21st, IREX's Senior Program Manager and IT Officer and LMC's SMS team led a half-day Training of Trainers (ToT) for the three Media Mobilizers who would begin leading regional trainings for 27 communities radio stations later in the month (see section 2.3.5.1.1.3.). Though the SMS component of the regional trainings would be facilitated by the LMC and IREX team, it was essential that the Media Mobilizers understand the platform and its contribution to promoting accountability to enable them to provide mentoring and encouragement to their mentee stations throughout the rollout of the program. Two of the three Media Mobilizers already learned about the platform during the ECAP program, so this training acted as a refresher to them and provided a foundation of understanding to the third Mobilizer. The training also focused on the new technical adjustments to the platform, and challenged the Mobilizers to begin brainstorming ways that the tool could be used to gauge listeners' views on accountability-related issues. The LMC and IREX team had planned to show the Mobilizers the updated platform, but due to the delay in finalizing the adjustments (see section 4.3.5.1.1.1.). This component of the ToT was not completed.

4.3.5.1.1.3. HOLD TRAINING FOR 27 STATIONS IN UPDATED SMS PLATFORM (JULY)

From July 29th through August 1st, the LMC SMS and IREX team travelled to all three regional trainings for CRSs to prepare them to use the SMS platform to promote accountability. One day of the four day training described in section 4.3.2.6.1.1. focused on SMS, including discussion, group exercise, and hands on practice for the station staff. The SMS team led the training in Tubmanburg on July 29th; in Gbarnga on July 30th; and in Zwedru on August 1st. During the morning, the trainees participated in a discussion on the origins of the platform, and its possibilities as a tool to gauge listeners' perceptions on accountability. Stations also worked in groups to develop Yes/No and Multi-Value questions related to an accountability issue, and then presented those questions to the group for feedback. In the afternoon the stations had practice actually entering their questions into the platform and announcing them to the group, enabling everyone at the training to text into the platform and see how responses are organized when received. The training was very practical and thus prepared the station staff to begin using it upon return to their stations. Many of the station staff expressed gratitude for the simplified platform and motivation to use the platform more actively. This expressed commitment has been upheld by certain stations, as described in section 4.3.5.1.2.

4.3.5.1.2. LMC TO CONDUCT MENTORING VISITS AS NEEDED AND ONGOING MONITORING VIA PHONE (AUGUST-OCTOBER)

A total of fifty-seven (57) Opinion Polls dedicated to accountability of Ebola funds were created by seventeen (17) stations, and a total of 4,227 votes were received for those polls.

Following the trainings described in section 4.3.5.1.1.3., The LMC actively provided mentoring to the 27 radio stations throughout August and September, and participation in the tool has increased as a result of the training and this ongoing support. The LMC team also conducted field visits to all 27 stations in late August and early September, ensuring that all stations have the confidence and hands-on practice to use the tool effectively. The Media Mobilizers contracted under CSML also provided valuable support to the stations, encouraging them to use the tool and guiding them as they develop accountability-related questions. With the assistance of the IREX IT Officer, the LMC also provided ongoing phone mentoring to all stations throughout the month.

The Media Mobilizers and LMC observed various challenges that the stations are facing in the field. Many stations continue to have challenges accessing the internet, though all received an internet modem and funds to charge their modem through their contract. The reality of several of the counties is that connectivity is sporadic. The LMC has attempted to mitigate this challenge by informing stations that they can ask the LMC to enter the question in the platform on their behalf, and inform them of the results once the poll is complete. This puts a lot of additional work on the LMC team, with assistance from the IREX IT Officer, but it also has ensured that polls are being created by some of the more remote stations. The LMC team has also reported that the number of unformatted poll responses (votes received by the platform but entered incorrectly) is quite high. This indicates that stations need to improve how they are announcing the poll responses and explaining to their listeners how to participate—we are confident that once the announcing is improved and listeners become comfortable participating in this tool, response rates will improve and unformatted texts will reduce. The LMC team works on a continuous basis to reformat unformatted texts where it is clear what the respondent intended to say (i.e., they texted 38Y instead of 38.Y).

Despite these challenges, many of the stations are active in using the platform to address accountability related issues, most notably MAGIC FM which is responsible for developing roughly 40% of all polls this quarter. Since the conclusion of the regional trainings, in August and September a total of 57 polls were created by 17 stations, and a total of 4,227 votes were received for those polls. Below are some highlights of polls conducted this quarter throughout the country:

MAGIC FM, Grand Bassa County:

Question: What could be the best way to use the two Ebola pickups in Grand Bassa County when Ebola is gone from Liberia?

Response Options	Number of Votes Received	Percentage
A. Turn over to the County health team	86	40.57%
B. Be used by the PMC (multi-stakeholder decision making committee)	13	6.13%
C. Be given to community college	113	53.30%
	212	100%

Radio Gee, River Gee County:

Question: How best can the citizens engage the county authority on how they spend Ebola money?

Response Options	Number of Votes Received	Percentage
A. FOI Method	26	44.83%
B. Radio talk show	17	29.31%
C. Town Hall meeting	15	25.86%
	58	100%

Voice of Tappita, Nimba County:

Question: The food ration distribution by AADRA that was intended for ebola affected communities was?

Response Options	Number of Votes Received	Percentage
A. Sold by distributors	14	31.11%
B. Sold by beneficiaries	5	11.11%
C. Given to the wrong people	26	57.78%
	45	100%

Voice of Grand Kru, Grand Kru County:

Question: What should be done to people who mismanage Ebola funds or materials in Grand Kru County?

Response Options	Number of Votes Received	Percentage
A) Dismissed	30	17.65%
B) Suspended	59	34.71%
C) Prosecuted in court	81	47.65%
Total	170	100%

Radio Life, Lofa County:

Question: Is Global Community burial teams in Zorzor and Salayea Districts still monitoring and in charge of burial activities in your community?

Response Options	Number of Votes Received	Percentage
Y/Yes	68	57.63%
N/No	50	42.37%
Total	118	100%

Radio Karn, Nimba County:

Question: Did Community Radio Played active role in the fight against Ebola?

Response Options	Number of Votes Received	Percentage
Y/Yes	80	79.21%
N/No	21	20.79%
Total	101	100%

4.3.5.1.3. IMPROVE SUSTAINABILITY OF SMS PLATFORM FOR USAGE POST-CSML (SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER)

At the start of the CE, CSML had sought to begin transitioning the platform to no longer be toll-free. Listeners would be expected to cover the cost of their text to respond to a poll (the cost being between \$.05 and \$0.08). However, due to a new partnership with the ECAP program, the LMC will work with the stations under that program to begin that transition, which will include targeted meetings with radio station staff from all participating stations to discuss feasibility of this transition and gauge their inputs and suggestions.

4.3.6. OBJECTIVE SEVEN: ENGAGE CIVIL SOCIETY AND THE MEDIA TO ADVANCE THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE RIGHT TO ACCESS TO INFORMATION

During the quarter, TCC/ATI Director Laura Neuman and Senior Program Associate Kari Mackey traveled to Liberia from July 19 – October 2 to meet with program partners, prepare for and help carry out International Right to Know Day activities, and convene planning and training events. TCC's new Vice President of Peace Programs, Mr. Jordan Ryan, accompanied the team during the September trip.

4.3.6.1. RE-INTRODUCE LFIC HOTLINE TO EXPAND REQUEST TRACKING TO FOCUS ON EBOLA RESOURCE MONITORING THROUGH FOI REQUESTS, TO COLLATE THE REQUESTS AND RESPONSES, AND TO ISSUE QUARTERLY REPORTS (JULY-NOVEMBER)

Eleven (11) staff persons from LMC and LFIC participated in training on the System for Tracking and Monitoring FOI (STAM-FOI) led by TCC/ATI.

During the July visit from Atlanta-based management/staff, TCC/ATI unveiled the System for Tracking and Monitoring FOI (STAM-FOI) requests as part of its support to the Liberia Freedom of Information Coalition (LFIC). TCC/ATI conducted training for 11 combined staff of the Liberia Media Center (LMC) and the LFIC on the STAM-FOI. A dedicated office with a computer was identified in the LMC compound building, which also hosts LFIC. It was decided that the system will capture requests previously tracked within the past year, as well as start collecting new requests. A number of modifications were also agreed upon for the final version of STAM/FOI.

In August, TCC/ATI Senior Project Coordinator met with the LFIC Secretariat Coordinator to discuss STAM-FOI implementation. During the meeting, a staffing structure, including three part-time monitors for the FOI hotline and STAM-FOI was developed and initial priority actions for hotline start-up were determined. As a follow up to the meeting, the LFIC submitted a detailed implementation budget for review and approval by TCC/ATI. TCC/ATI began collecting quotes for the hotline service including phone equipment, service options, and costs of the hotline numbers and short code. TCC/Atlanta also revised the STAM-FOI and accompanying manual per feedback provided during the July training, and ensured that the seven county FOI networks continued to track Ebola-related requests for input into the system.

In September, TCC/ATI Senior Program Associate and Senior Project Coordinator provided final training to the LFIC Secretariat Coordinator, the LMC Officer-In-Charge, and four staff who will run the STAM-FOI. All materials, including software and manuals, were provided and the STAM/FOI began operation.

4.3.6.2. SUPPORT LFIC TO PUBLICIZE HOTLINE AND RAISE AWARENESS FOR FOI ACCOUNTABILITY (JULY-OCTOBER)

In August and September, TCC/ATI Senior Project Coordinator met with the LFIC Secretariat Coordinator and the LMC Officer-In-Charge to concretize previous draft plans to publicize the hotline. Under the plan, the hotline number will be shared with all LFIC member organizations and civil society groups, including the seven county FOI networks, to disseminate during various trainings and events. Both national and local radio stations will be provided with the numbers and short code to give out during relevant talk shows and on their daily shows. The hotline number also will be placed on ear pieces of the local dailies and social media, as well as distributed via bumper stickers. Designs for bumper stickers were drafted in September.

4.3.6.3. SUPPORT LFIC MEMBERS TO UNDERTAKE FOI CAMPAIGN RELATED TO EBOLA (AUGUST-OCTOBER)

In July, TCC/ATI conducted a capacity assessment of national civil society groups working on FOI to determine which was most prepared to implement a FOI campaign focused on the use of FOI to help account for Ebola resources. In August, the Center for Transparency and Accountability (CENTAL) was selected to submit a proposal for review and approval by TCC/ATI-Atlanta. In September, CENTAL's contract was finalized and the organization began working with the FOI networks in Nimba and Rural Montserrado counties to build local community capacity to file requests for information, share requests and responses more broadly, as well as engage holders of information to proactively provide information.

4.3.6.4. STAKEHOLDER MEETINGS WITH NATIONAL CSOs AND KEY AGENCIES (JULY-OCTOBER)

One-hundred (100) representatives of government, civil society, media, donors, and the international community convened for a parade to celebrate the International Right to Know Day, led by TCC/ATI.

Over seventy-five (75) civil society and government representatives participated in a panel to discuss the role of information during recovery to commemorate International Right to Know Day, led by TCC/ATI.

In July, TCC/ATI Project Lead and Senior Project Coordinator met with a team of IREX partners to develop plans for the convening of stakeholder meetings to seek buy-in and cooperation to advance accountability for Ebola resources. TCC/ATI suggested that MICAT co-convene and sign the invitation to stakeholders as part of a strategy to guarantee government support and ownership. TCC/ATI Project Lead met with MICAT Deputy Minister Isaac Jackson who committed to government support for the program. TCC/ATI then led a session on the importance of accountability of Ebola resources.

August was spent working in coordination with the Independent Information Commission (IIC), MICAT, and key civil society stakeholders to plan for the commemoration of International Right to Know Day (IRTKD) on September 28th.

In particular, TCC/ATI focused on securing international and local speakers to discuss challenges of information dissemination, accountability, and transparency around the Ebola and other crises in line with this year's theme, "Freedom of Information: In times of Crisis and Recovery."

On International Right to Know Day, TCC/ATI and key partners led a parade down Tubman Boulevard to Monrovia City Hall where more than 100 representatives of government, civil society, media, donors, and the international community convened. Pulitzer prize winning journalist Susan White delivered the keynote address, recounting the value of information during Hurricane Katrina. Vice President Joseph Boakai, through his Chief of Staff, launched Liberia's National Action Plan for the Open Government Partnership (OGP) following its unveiling by Deputy Information Minister and Liberia's OGP focal Point, Andrew Tehmeh. The action plan contains 20 commitments for a more open and transparent Liberia. Carter Center Vice President Jordan Ryan, Liberia and Sierra Leone Information Commissioners Yeama Thompson and Mark Bedor-Wla, and LFIC Coordinator Varney Kamara were among other speakers at the program who emphasized the value of information in enhancing democratic governance, accountability, and transparency.

A panel discussion was held on September 29th that brought together over 75 civil society and government participants. Panelists included Deputy Information Minister Isaac Jackson, Information Commissioners Mark Freeman and Yeama Thompson, the Presidents from the Liberian and Sierra Leonean Press Unions--Abdulai Kamara and Kelvin Lewis, Kloneous Blamo, and Executive Director of the Center for Media Studies and Peace Building Malcolm Joseph, among others. Former Deputy Minister Norris Tweah and Ruth Jaffa from the Governance Commission facilitated the panels which focused on the role of information during recovery and helped the group agree on next steps. Recommendations included greater proactive publication and transparency of the national Ebola recovery plan, continued multi-stakeholder meetings, and additional engagement of the Information Commissioner's office.

4.3.6.5. SUPPORT NETWORKS IN FIVE COUNTIES TO IDENTIFY INFORMATION NEEDS, RAISE AWARENESS, REQUEST INFORMATION, AND SERVE AS PART OF THE "FEEDBACK LOOP" (ONGOING)

In July, TCC/ATI convened a meeting of all seven County FOI Network coordinators to discuss activities and strategies for identifying information needs related to accounting for Ebola resources, raising awareness, making requests for information, and serving as part of the feedback loop. During the meeting, the coordinators shared their recent FOI successes and challenges at the local level, noting that each network continues to meet at least monthly, membership remains strong with most networks focusing on expansion, and awareness has increased with several callers to radio talk shows citing the FOI law. Challenges centered on the continuing lack or inactivity of county information officers and the lack of a decentralized IIC. To address the challenges, TCC/ATI encouraged the coordinators to take additional copies of the FOI law and Public Servants' Guide as support for their advocacy efforts with local government to appoint officers and to support requesters to file appeals with the IIC in the absence of internal review mechanisms at the local level. Further, in order to raise the profile and accessibility of the networks, TCC/ATI provided technical and small financial supports to help the networks establish an office presence that network members will staff on a rotating basis.

In August, TCC/ATI conducted training for network members in Rural Montserrado, Bong, and Grand Bassa counties. During the trainings, TCC/ATI Senior Project Coordinator gave a presentation focused on the role of the County FOI networks in helping the communities identify their information needs, writing requests for information, following-up on responses, and filing appeals as necessary. Senior Project Coordinator stressed that different communities may have different information needs and provided a list of the types of information that may be important. Members of the FOI networks concluded the meeting by making commitments to file requests for information to various actors, including the offices of the county superintendents, health officers, immigration commanders, as well as commissioners and town chiefs who received funding and resources to fight Ebola.

Following are examples of the advancements made during the quarter in each of the seven counties:

Bong

- The network conducted a FOI training for 9 members of the Palala Kpai District Chapter of the Federation of Road Transport Union of Liberia and 13 members of the Gbatata branch of the Federation of Road Transport Union of Liberia. At the close of the training, one FOI request was written to the district representative, requesting a copy of the Mineral Development Agreement signed by Accelormittal and the Government of Liberia for rail road passage through Kpai district. The trainees also requested to know how many district citizens have been employed by the company.
- The network attributed the presence of a new Chief County Education Officer to the many FOI requests regarding education issues within the county and the pressure for increased accountability around fees, curriculum, teacher qualifications, development plans, scholarships, etc.
- The network continued to hold radio talk shows that encouraged proactive disclosure by public agencies and private entities that have received government funding such as the County Ebola Task Force.
- The network convened 35 persons including CSOs, media, FOI club members, and local officials in Gbarnga to celebrate International Right to Know Day. The Bong County Senior Labor inspector delivered the keynote address, speaking about the challenges that line ministries and agencies face in implementing the FOI law, given the lack of capacity and resources. He called for support from the greater community, while citizens called for stronger enforcement of the FOI Act.

Grand Bassa

- The network visited the local Customer Service Center, the first in Liberia, to request information about the various services offered and related fees to help disseminate this information more broadly.
- The network held radio shows on Wee Radio Station and Radio Gbehzon to discuss proactive disclosure of Ebola resources and call on county authorities to routinely provide information to the people. The shows are presumed to have led to proactive disclosure by the Liberia National Red Cross Society on Radio Magic, that it received 3000 Ebola buckets, distributed 1000 and requested citizens to collect the remaining 2000 in stock.
- The network held three training sessions to capacitate community members to write requests for information. Participants included governors, community and religious leaders, CSOs, youth, and women. During the meetings the network disseminated copies of reports and shared information received via FOI requests, encouraging participants to also use the law.

Grand Gedeh

- The network met with and encouraged various line ministries and agencies to proactively disclose information.
- The network raised awareness on the importance of sharing information and accounting for Ebola resources at the Ebola Task Force and disaster management meetings.
- The network held a meeting for the management of two local radio stations, Top FM and Smile Radio, to discuss issues of accountability and transparency in the county.
- The network invited the County Health Team on its radio program to discuss the Ebola recovery program.

Lofa

- The network continued to hold regular FOI talk shows to raise awareness of the need for accountability around Ebola expenditures.

- The network regularly convened meetings of its 15-20 members as well as school FOI clubs to encourage and track requests around Ebola expenditures and issues related to education, such as illegal PTA fees, school budgets, curriculum, etc.
- The network tracked two FOI requests made to the Ebola Task Force to understand how much they received from the Ebola risk benefits and to learn the number of persons that died as a result of the Ebola outbreak in the Quardu_Gboni District. The Quardu Gboni Ebola Task Force has yet to respond.
- The network held a public discussion at the Wologizie Forum on the use of FOI request to monitor Ebola resources, raised awareness on the FOI Law, and explained the process in making a request. During the forum, a committee was set up to work along with the County FOI Network to request information of interest.

Nimba

- The network continued to track FOI requests by members of the community and share the requests and their outcome(s) on local radio.
- The network continued to hold radio talk shows focused on FOI twice per month, as well as raise awareness about FOI at monthly town hall and county steering committee meetings. The network used these meetings to report on community information needs and the effectiveness of government actions as part of the local feedback loop.

River Gee

- The network focused on raising FOI awareness in school, through the media (particularly radio), among senior staff at intellectual centers, and through community trainings. The high school FOI clubs expanded to focus on integrity/accountability in addition to FOI.
- The network assisted in holding an Ebola funding accountability forum among key stakeholders.
- The Ministry of Health's county office started disclosing information to the public following a FOI request by the Youth Empowerment Initiative regarding the breakdown of 4.1 million Liberian dollars provided to the County Health Team by the national government for the fight against Ebola. These disclosures, including the breakdown of LD\$ 4.1 million and the Ministry's assets were made public through radio talk shows. Further, the local Ministry of Health Administrator provided an explanation of the expenditures in the Fish Town intellectual centers.
- The Federation of Liberian Youths (FLY) filed a request to Radio Gee regarding the expenditure breakdown of the \$2,000.00 USD provided by the local authority from the County Development Fund for the fight against Ebola. On the same day, the Radio Gee Management provided a full response to the FOI Network's request and appeared on the Ebola Funding Accountability Platform to list all of the support that the station received to fight the virus. The station manager provided copies of his presentation to CSOs, media, and CBOs, and published copies on the station's bulletin board for public consumption. The network facilitated the appearance of the River Gee County Health Administrator on Radio Gee where he provided additional information on the use of the UNMIL Ebola donations of USD \$ 15,000. The money was provided to train contact tracers and procure four motorbikes and scratch cards.

Rural Montserrado

- The network continued to attend the local county development committee meetings, follow-up on information requests, and increase membership and member activities around FOI.
- In order to ensure better coverage within the county, the network divided the region into zones and assigned each to a network member to raise FOI awareness, encourage and track requests, and report back to the network coordinator.

- The network held a meeting with 20 women from the township of White Plains, under the theme “Women’s Access to Information about Ebola Resources in their Communities.” Participants included community health practitioners, market women, farmers, traditional leaders, and women youth groups. During the meeting they drafted a FOI request for the Commissioner of the White Plains township for the amount of Ebola materials obtained by the clinic, the total amount of cash received, and the number of Ebola cases treated at that facility. To date, there has not been any response.
- The network raised awareness on the FOI law and built capacity on how to write requests for information regarding Ebola resources at a meeting called by a local leader to appreciate community efforts to fight Ebola. The Network explained the process involved in filing requests and following up to appeal.

4.3.6.6. SUPPORT COMMUNITY RADIO STATIONS TO GENERATE PROGRAMS AROUND FOI REQUESTS AND RESPONSES (AUGUST-NOVEMBER)

Thirty-five (35) community radio reporters and producers participated in a TCC/ATI led training to generate programs around Ebola resource requests.

Thirty (30) Media Mangers and Reporters participated in a forum to share their experiences in reporting events during the Ebola crisis at a TCC/ATI led event organized in conjunction with the International Right to Know Day.

In July, TCC/ATI supported a training of trainers workshop held by IREX for media mobilizers. During the meeting, TCC/ATI Senior Project Coordinator mentored five senior journalists and media trainers who in turn will provide on-station mentoring to community radio personnel on generating programs around FOI requests to account for Ebola resources. Senior Project Coordinator conducted a two-part training on building knowledge about the FOI law and on the application of FOI knowledge to advance transparency and accountability.

In August, TCC/ATI supported 35 community radio reporters and producers (14 in Rural Montserrado, 11 in Bong, and 10 in Grand Bassa) to generate programs around Ebola resource requests and to raise awareness about Ebola accountability in communities. The journalists were encouraged to host FOI requesters to discuss their experiences in filling and following up on FOI requests, as well as filling appeals with the IIC. The workshop also covered the use of FOI in investigative journalism, writing stories on the value of the law, as well as proactive disclosure mechanisms used by local government, and responses to FOI requests. TCC/ATI Senior Project Coordinator provided several case studies on how other reporters have used FOI to uncover important news stories that lead to policy change or shed light on corrupt transactions. The meeting concluded with journalists making commitments to file various FOI requests related to accountability of Ebola resources and related expenditures.

In celebration of International Right to Know Day, TCC/ATI and the Press Union of Liberia co-hosted a forum for more than 30 media managers, editors, and senior reporters to share their experiences in reporting events during the Ebola crisis and to explore mechanisms for investigative and narrative reporting to highlight Ebola resource accountability. Radio managers from Nimba, Bong, and Lofa counties, the President of ALICOR, the female journalist of the year, and many others, attended the meeting that was facilitated by international guests Susan White, Yeama Thompson, and Kelvin Thompson.

4.3.7. OBJECTIVE NINE: SOCIAL ENTERPRISES SUPPORT REGIONAL CSOS AND CRSS IN ATTAINING INSTITUTIONAL AND FINANCIAL SUSTAINABILITY

4.3.7.1. SUPPORT DENL AND RSC TEAM TO ESTABLISH EFFECTIVE EXIT STRATEGY FOR THE RSC (JULY-OCTOBER)

In August a meeting was held between IREX’s Senior Civil Society Program Officer and the Senior Management Team of DENL, including the Executive Director to brainstorm with DENL on the development of an exit strategy for the RSC. DENL proposed opening a library using the existing facilities. It would have books and other resource materials

that students, NGOs and others can use and pay small fees. The DENL Program Manager was charged with leading the development of the exit strategy, which was submitted to IREX for review in September. The IREX Senior Civil Society Specialist then met with the DENL team in Gbarnga to review the submitted strategy and address some concerns with the plan in relation to sustainability and feasibility. It was agreed that DENL would develop a business plan, showing start-up costs and projected revenue and expenses over time.

In late July, DEN-L conducted an outreach campaign to inform the community of the RSC and ensure that the public was aware it is open and accessible to the public. The Master Trainer appeared on two radio talk shows (Super Bongese and Radio Gbarnga) to discuss the reopening of the Resource Support Center and inform the public about available services. In addition, radio announcements and jingles on the RSC were developed and aired for a period of two weeks on Super Bongese Radio. Since the reopening of the Resource Center on July 28th through September 30th, a total of 78 individuals (58 males and 20 females) have visited the Center. These visits were made by staffers of some local CSOs, several media outlets, students of Cuttington University and Bong Technical College, as well as members of the general public. Activities of these users were computer and internet-related, ranging from project proposal development, project report writing, and senior thesis development, to email checking, web surfing, and desktop research.

4.4. GENDER AND YOUTH

4.4.1. ENSURE EFFECTIVE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE GENDER AND YOUTH MAINSTREAMING STRATEGIES

4.4.1.1. PROVIDE TECHNICAL SUPPORT TO MAIN PARTNERS AND CONSULTANTS TO MAINSTREAM GENDER IN THE PROPOSALS AND TRAINING PLANS (JULY)

In July, the Gender and Youth Manager presented at the CLF Refresher Workshop for the MPs and CSOs to ensure that they consider diversity in the planning and implementation of their CLFs (see section 4.3.2.2.1.2.). At the end of the presentation the MPs and CSOs better understood the term diversity and the need to ensure that diversity cuts across every aspect of the CLFs including selection of communities and community leaders, identification of priority issues in the forums, and action plan development. Additionally, MPs and CSOs were able to identify marginalized groups that are frequently overlooked and whose voices should be included in community initiatives.

The Gender and Youth Manager also attended Accountability and Content development trainings by media consultant (see section 4.3.2.6.1.1.) and gave key gender and youth insights on the topics being discussed. The manager supported the reporters to identify gender-related story ideas and news sources.

4.4.1.2. SUPPORT THE MEDIA TEAM TO MONITOR AND MENTOR FEMALE JOURNALISTS AND COMMUNITY RADIO STATIONS REPORTING ON ISSUES OF ACCOUNTABILITY AND TRANSPARENCY (AUGUST-OCTOBER)

In late July, the Gender and Youth Manager monitored the Accountability and Content Development Training for Community radio stations from Maryland, Sinoe, Rivercess, Grand Kru, River Gee and Grand Gedeh counties (see section 4.3.2.6.1.1.). A total of 16 individuals from 8 radio stations attended the training. The Manager provided logistical support for the training, ensured that all participants received their reimbursements and that contracts and all other necessary documents were signed.

From July through September, the Gender and Youth Manager supported the Media Team to monitor and mentor community radio stations reporting on issues of accountability. The Manager conducted several telephone mentoring and follow up with the stations on key deliverables.

4.4.2. SUPPORT IMPLEMENTATION OF THE “EVERYBODY’S BUSINESS” FORUMS AND WOMEN’S MEDIA EMPOWERMENT CLUBS

In August, the LIWOMAC team worked with community radio stations and developed a schedule to co-facilitate 13 “Everybody Business” Forums. Additionally, LIWOMAC provided coaching for the new stations that did not have experience in conducting the “Everybody Business” forum.

In the Month of September, the LIWOMAC team co-facilitated a total of 6 (six) of the 13 forums in Margibi, Bong and Nimba counties. The Gender and Youth Manager supported the team to co-facilitate some of the forums. The drama depicted the issues the community faced both during and post Ebola crisis. The drama focused on issues such as the distribution of Ebola resources to affected communities, support to Ebola survivors etc.

The audience was later given the opportunity to interact with the drama team with questions and answers. A resource person was available to response to community concerns on the problems dramatized; the resource person also showed the community how to seek redress to burning issues as well as information on stakeholders to engage. The Gender and Youth Manager advised radio stations to continue the engagements through talk show and other means. More than 500 community members including local leaders participated/benefited from these forums

4.4.2.1. WORK WITH LIWOMAC TO EXPAND WOMEN’S MEDIA EMPOWERMENT CLUBS IN ADDITIONAL 8 COUNTIES AND STRENGTHEN THEIR CAPACITY TO IDENTIFY AND REPORT ON ISSUES OF ACCOUNTABILITY AND TRANSPARENCY (JULY-OCTOBER)

In July, LIWOMAC trainers participated in a five-day TOT on Ebola Accountability (see section 4.3.2.6.1.). In the first week of August, the Gender and Youth Manager worked with LIWOMAC to develop training materials to train Women’s Media Empowerment Clubs. These materials incorporated content from the earlier Ebola Accountability Training modules utilized by the CS Team, with additional content on “Everybody’s Business” forums and best practices for the establishment of Women’s Media Empowerment Clubs.

From August 9-24, the Gender and Youth Manager supported LIWOMAC to expand Women’s Media Empowerment clubs to eight new counties (Lofa, Bomi, Gbarpolu, Grand Cape Mount, Margibi, Nimba, Grand Gedeh and River Gee). A second phase of the training targeting 4 old clubs; 2 in Montserrado, 1 in Grand Bassa and 1 in Bong was conducted. The initial plan was to train a total of 15 Listening Clubs; 5 clubs in Montserrado and one each from Lofa, Bomi, Gbarpolu, Grand Cape Mount, Margibi, Nimba, Grand Gedeh and River Gee, Bong and Grand Bassa counties. The plan was to bring the five clubs in Montserrado in one location to hold the training. However, after holding consultations with each women group, concerns were raised that this would not be possible as Ebola accountability issues and concerns varied from community to community. The only option left was to provide a separate training for each community. This would require more funding as the team needed to rent separate halls among other things. Given the already limited training budget, the limited timeline for implementation; LIWOMAC shared this concern with IREX immediately. After thorough review of the situation with LIWOMAC, it was agreed that the most affected community and active club engagement will be use to select the clubs to participate. Two communities; West Point and Chicken Soup Factory were selected for the training.

The training focused on enhancing women’s capacity to identify gender related accountability concerns as well as to identify appropriate Ebola management stakeholders to engage. The participants also learned skills in engaging larger audiences through “Everybody’s Business” forums and using the radio as a tool to gather Ebola accountability information that could be used for onward follow up and engagements with the larger community. “Women’s rights” with emphasis on access to information and participation was also discussed during the training. During the training, the women identified several gender related accountability issues and concerns including women participation in Ebola management processes, support to Ebola widows, orphans, care givers and women survivals, alternative source of livelihood for women cross boarder traders and dry meat sellers, support to women farmers,

etc. The women also expressed a strong desire to engage local leaders on protection for women and girls at border (internal and international) crossing points during the Ebola crisis. At the close of the training, each club identified key issues that they would like to engage Ebola management stakeholders on. They also identify the processes they intend to use for these engagements. These included holding meetings with Ebola management teams (NGOs, community leaders, Ebola management structures), radio talk shows on selected topics and the conduct of “Everybody’s Business” forums in targeted communities. A total of 300 women (25 per club) participated in the trainings. Each club was given 3 radios to use to listen and follow up on Ebola accountability programs.

4.5. GRANTS

4.5.1. ENSURE COMPLIANCE WITH USAID AND IREX POLICIES (ONGOING)

4.5.1.1. ENSURE ALL SUBGRANT DOCUMENTS ARE PROPERLY FILED IN LINE WITH CSML CLOSEOUT SCHEDULE (ONGOING)

During the quarter, the Grants Office prepared box files for all subgrants awarded during the CE, and properly filed all grants documents in line with the CSML closeout schedule. In addition to subgrants, Grants opened files for all contracts/agreements for both Civil Society and Media consultants. Grants will continue to update all files as CSML is in the closeout phase.

4.5.1.1.1. ENSURE ALL SUBGRANT INFORMATION IS POSTED INTO IKNOW TRACKING SYSTEM REGULARLY (ONGOING)

During the quarter, Grants uploaded a total of 152 assorted files to the online sub-award tracking system (iKNOW) in an effort to upload all documents before or by the end of the project.

4.5.2. PROVIDE SUPPORT TO ALL DEPARTMENTS AS NEEDED

Grants supported the media and civil society teams to verify milestone deliverables from partners; and supported finance to process sub-grants payments during the quarter.

4.6. MONITORING AND EVALUATION

4.6.1. ADMINISTER THE REVISED MONITORING AND EVALUATION PLAN FOR THE CE PERIOD (ONGOING)

During the month of July, the M&E team met with the Chief of Party to discuss ongoing plans for the CE period. During this meeting the COP highlighted thematic areas that were the sole focus to the M&E team. Areas highlighted in the meeting included:

- Revising the M&E plan for the CE;
- Meeting other organizations implementing the CE (SEARCH & TCC);
- Liaising with the program team to collect training attendance data;
- Conducting Mini Survey (s) for the CE on Ebola activities;
- Developing tools to collect monitoring data

4.6.1.1. COMPLETE THE REVISED M&E PLAN FOR COST EXTENSION (JULY)

During the month of July, the M&E team arranged a meeting with Danielle de Garcia of Social Impact (SI) to complete and revise the M&E plan to reflect the CE period. During the month of August, the M&E Department finalized the revision of the Monitoring and Evaluation Plan to reflect accountability, media monitoring and technical support for community radio stations under the CE project. The results framework was re-designed to reflect more accurately the intended results of the CE project. Project activities were revised to highlight activities under the CE with primary focus on Ebola recovery. Several new indicators were developed to track progress against newly articulated results.

4.6.1.2. COLLECT PERFORMANCE MONITORING DATA USING THE REVISED M&E PLAN (ONGOING)

During the month of September, the M&E Department worked with the program staff to collect and report data for several new indicators to track progress under the CE for July and August. Given the short timeframe for the implementation of the CE project, the indicators monitored were all input and output indicators that were deemed feasible to collect and measure the results of the program. This enabled the timely and consistent collection of comparable performance data over the period.

Also in September, the M&E Department facilitated the meeting to review the 51 Most Significant Change (MSC) stories written by partner CSOs and CRSs and to select the best stories for incorporation into the CSML Final Report or other communications tools, and 20 stories were selected. These were placed into domains such as personal, organizational, community, sector or cross sector. The criteria used to select the most appropriate stories were documented. The selected stories still need some work and verification, which will be conducted in October by visiting the sites where the described events took place, conducting follow up calls, or interviews. The purpose of this verification activity is two-fold: to check that stories have been reported accurately and honestly and to provide an opportunity to gather more detailed information.

4.6.1.3. UPDATE PERFORMANCE INDICATOR REFERENCE SHEETS TO INCLUDE UP TO DATE INDICATOR DATA FROM CE PERIOD (SEPT-NOV)

During the month of September, the Performance Indicator Reference Sheets were updated, incorporating newly developed indicators for the CE. Twenty seven (27) performance indicator reference sheets were updated and provide an in-depth description of each indicator in the program. Each indicator sheet provides information on:

- Indicator definition, unit of measurement, and any data breakout requirements;
- Data acquisition method, data sources, timeliness for data acquisition, and person responsible for data acquisition;
- Plans for data analysis, review, and reporting;
- Any data quality issues, including any actions taken or planned to address data limitations; and
- Notes on baselines, targets and data calculations methods.

4.6.1.4. ENTER DATA INTO THE PERFORMANCE INDICATOR DATABASE SYSTEM (PIDS) (ONGOING)

During the month of September, the M&E team worked along with Mulbah Reed, M&E Specialist from the Liberia Monitoring & Evaluation Program (LMEP) to enter the newly developed results, objectives and indicators under the CE into the USAID Performance Indicator Database System (PIDS).

4.6.1.5. USE THE MEDIA CONTENT ANALYSIS TOOL (MCAT) TO MONITOR MEDIA COVERAGE OF ACCOUNTABILITY ISSUES (ONGOING)

The MCAT data base was revised in July to monitor and capture media coverage of accountability and transparency issues. In August and September the M&E department collected, entered and analyzed MCAT data for the period of July- September 2015. A draft report on the findings from the MCAT was developed in August for review. The MCAT is used to measure the quality of program content of targeted news outlets. The MCAT monitors and captures media coverage of Accountability and transparency issues. The MCAT will be used to monitor the extent to which issues around accountability are featured in news content of Monrovia-based media partners.

4.6.2. MANAGE CENTRALIZED SYSTEM FOR DATA COLLECTION (ONGOING)

4.6.2.1. ENTER AND REPORT TRAINING ATTENDANCE DATA (ONGOING)

During the month of July the attendance database was revised to collect and report training attendance data for easy access and timely reporting. In August and September all training attendance data were collected and entered

into the attendance data base system. This will help the program adequately track all trainings conducted by the program under the CE period.

4.7. SEARCH FOR COMMON GROUND

Search for Common Ground's implementation of activities under their *Recovery Together* program has been slow to progress this quarter, with many of their key activities delayed until the following quarter. IREX has been in continuous contact and had also engaged USAID and SFCG HQ repeatedly to ensure all parties are informed of these delays, aware of the justification for these delays, and working collaboratively to move forward and achieve all intended deliverables. Despite these delays, some activities did commence this quarter, as outlined in the section below.

4.7.1. COMMUNITY BASED ORGANIZATIONS ARE SUPPORTING COMMUNITIES FOR THE REINTEGRATION OF EBOLA SURVIVORS AND MEMORIALIZATION OF THOSE WHO DIED

4.7.1.1. INCREASE THE CAPACITY OF COMMUNITIES TO FACILITATE HEALING PROCESSES OF INDIVIDUALS WHO LOST LOVED ONES AS A RESULT OF EBOLA (JULY)

Ninety-five (95) community members (47 males and 48 females) were engaged in discussions on the impact of Ebola as part of a SFCG –led assessment of the hardest hit communities.

On August 19-21, SFCG project staff conducted a three-day field assessment in Bong, Grand Cape Mount, Lofa, Margibi, Montserrado and Nimba counties to understand the local challenges the most hard hit communities and identify civil society organizations working in those counties to partner with for program implementation. The assessment aimed at identifying critical post-Ebola issues such as memorialization of the dead, orphans, stigmatization and other issues facing survivors. In addition, a mapping of relevant civil society organizations was conducted with the view of determining suitable CSOs partners in order to strengthen local capacity response to the aftermath of the outbreak. The methodology used included semi-structured interviews and focus group discussions. The questionnaire administered was organized in six categories: a) memorialization, b) Ebola survivors, c) reintegration, d) CSOs mapping, e) conflict related issues and f) advocacy. Respondents comprised a cross section of people including town chiefs, county health officers, Ebola survivors, widows, orphans, widowers, youth, community and religious leaders, county attorneys, students and academics. In total, over 95 respondents were interviewed including 48 women.

While the findings from the assessment were different in each target location, there are similarities across counties. Respondents in all six counties expressed a strong desire to remember or memorialize the dead. In some counties, ideas of memorialization are percolating. In others, concrete steps have been taken to erect a memorial or monument. For example, in Bong County, Cuttington University is encouraging students to voluntarily contribute the sum of \$2.00 USD toward the erection of a monument. Likewise, Phebe Hospital, Central Liberia, has agreed to build a Palava Hut.¹ If erected, this memorial will be dedicated to the memories of healthcare workers who died in the fight against Ebola. In Lofa, plans for proper reburials are underway as well as a discussion about building fences as a measure to protect the sacred spaces of the dead. In other places, a requiem mass is being planned to honor the memories of loved one.

Survivors are present in all six counties visited and are suffering from different forms of stigmatization. Some are declared official survivors while others are referred to as unofficial. Official survivors are those who were certificated

¹ In Liberia, Palava Hut symbolizes dispute resolution at the local level. The Palava Hut model of Reconciliation was recommended by the Liberia Truth and Reconciliation Commission; a recommendation that the National Human Rights Commission of Liberia is trying to implement.

following medication at Ebola Treatment Unit (ETU) and successfully completed 21 days of observation. Thus, official survivors are those who have official records at hospitals and clinic. It has been announced that those in the official survivor category are likely to benefit from some measure of government subsidy, a gesture toward reintegration. The category of unofficial survivors refers to persons who were cured as a result of home care. It means, in the latter category, survivors didn't leave their home and were never admitted into a hospital facility. The same term can be applied to victims of Ebola who were buried outside of a recognized cemetery.

Responses on reintegration revealed that there are no established government run programs facilitating survivors' re-entry into their communities. Survivors of Ebola are for the most part reintegrating into communities on their own. In a few isolated cases community based organizations are intervening. For instance, Community Social Mobilizers working in Margibi County have played a crucial role in providing psycho social care to survivors. In Bong County, the St. Thomas Episcopal High School has established a weaving project for survivors, providing capacity building opportunity for survivors to earn a new source of livelihood.

The CSO mapping exercise showed that several organizations are engaged with post-Ebola recovery efforts. Some of the organizations interviewed included community based groups, civil society organizations, religious groups, private sector groups and community radios. Based on the design of the Project and in consultation with IREX, it was agreed that selection of county-based partners will be based on the following criteria measure: a) CSOs/CBOs that worked on the Ebola response; b) organizations that demonstrate presence in the counties; c) those that are engaged or plan to be involved with post-Ebola recovery efforts; d) and finally, CSOs/CBOs that demonstrate expertise and experience in community social mobilization. Based on these criteria, the following organizations were selected:

- Bong County -Catholic Justice and Peace Commission
- Grand Cape Mount County - Transitional Justice Working Group (led by Center for Democratic Empowerment, CEDE)
- Lofa County - Community Safety Initiative (CSI)
- Margibi County - Liberia Youth Network (LIYONET)
- Nimba County - Effective Advocacy to Restore Stability for the Masses (EARS for the Masses)
- Monsterrado County - Transitional Justice Working Group (TJWG)

Beyond the determination that local communities are trying to remember loved ones and are assisting survivors reintegrate into communities, a range of conflict related issues were uncovered. These issues informed the design of the conflict sensitive reporting and other aspect of the training workshop. It was also used to inform the design of radio messages. Some of the issues identified are:

- The different treatment of officially registered survivors versus unofficial survivors;
- The government has given money to some family member of deceased healthcare workers. This exercise has raised expectation among relatives of other deceased (widows, widowers) including survivors who are also looking for compensation;
- Lack of clear information on when post-Ebola support will end;
- Improper burial of the dead and lack of closure for families; and
- Stigmatization of Ebola survivors and orphans.

The assessment visit conducted in six counties proved useful for a number of reasons. Until this study, it was not clear what affected communities thought about the recovery process, what had already been done, what communities wanted to do, what are the gaps and technical support required to complement their efforts. In response to some of these unanswered questions, the study was able to fill in key gaps. It showed what affected communities were able to do without much outside prompting. In terms of memorial preference, it showed similarities and dissimilarities across communities. For example it showed the most communities were engaged in

the practice of memorial service and erecting monuments. Most importantly, it identified emerging conflict issues and underscored them as the new fault line. Hence, it provided the basis for the design of the conflict sensitive reporting training. Based on the training, there was a consensus on the key conflict issues. Advocacy strategy to supplement this effort was developed and CSOs and community radio stations agreed to take on the issues on the radio and in outreach.

4.7.1.2. PROVIDE CONFLICT SENSITIVE TRAINING FOR CSOS/CBOs ON THE REINTEGRATION OF SURVIVORS (JULY)

Thirty-eight (38) representatives of media, civil society, SFCG, IREX and USAID attended a three day workshop in Gbarnga to kick-off the SFCG activities and plan for program implementation, messaging, and approach.

From August 27-29, SFCG convened a three day long workshop in Gbarnga that brought together 21 station managers of community radios and two representatives each from five CSOs selected to participate in the project. Together with SFCG, IREX and USAID staff, a total of 38 participants attended the training.

The training program was divided into seven sessions:

- Session One: Issues around reintegration of Ebola survivors that have conflict implication;
- Session Two: Overview of memorialization, ethics, cultural and religious implication;
- Session Three: Development and validation of reintegration messages;
- Session Four: Developing an integrative approach between CSOs and Media;
- Session Five: Developing a system for monitoring and tracking of messages produced and aired;
- Session Six: Designing advocacy strategy; and
- Session Seven: Development of three month work plan.

During the training, participants outlined a list of potential conflict issues and agreed on reporting techniques as means to mitigate conflict. For example, participants talked about the categories of official and unofficial survivors and agreed to take these issues up during policy dialogue session with local authorities with the view of reconciling the two into one category of survivors. In addition, the training looked at the concept of memorialization, including comparative examples of what it means to remember or memorialize victims of civil war, authoritarian regime, genocide or an epidemic such as Ebola. The training presented a global picture of memorialization while giving examples of local memorial efforts. SFCG shared images of different types of memorials around the world, ethics to uphold in the design and consultative process and mistakes to be avoided. It also highlighted community engagement as critical elements of consultation and consensus building.

The training also provided participants the opportunity to identify messages encouraging the reintegration of Ebola survivors, as well as establish the schedule for airing and a plan for monitoring these messages (See Activities Contributing to Objective 5 below). The training also examined the intersection between civil society and the media, and how they can collaborate to promote a positive recovery process, including developing an advocacy and implementation strategy (See Activities Contributing to Objective 7 below).

Both CSOs and radio stations representatives at the conflict sensitive reporting training acknowledged that the training was timely and valuable. For example, a participant said, “We didn’t know there are several ways to memorialize loved one beyond erecting a static monument.” Another indicated that, “It is good to know that memorializing doesn’t have to be expensive but creative and meaningful.” They also indicated that findings from the assessment proved crucial to understanding the context and evolving post-Ebola dynamics. All promised to take on the issues raised and discussed and animate them further on radio talk shows as well as in CSOs related forum. The evaluation of participants was matched against expectation set before the convening of the training. Nearly all of the

participants expressed interest in better understanding emerging conflict issues, sensitive reporting, and memorialization.

4.7.1.3. ORGANIZE COMMUNITY FORUMS ON THE REINTEGRATION OF EBOLA SURVIVORS IN TARGET COUNTIES (JULY-OCTOBER)

SFCG will commence holding of forums in communities in early October which are expected to continue through the end of October.

4.7.1.4. DEVELOP AND AIR MEDIA PRODUCTS

One of the key outputs of the training described in section 4.7.1.2. was the development of key messages on memorialization, reintegration and stigmatization. Below are some sample messages:

Memorialization

- “Ebola came here and killed plenty people. Some were buried good and some were not buried good. I know it hurts and it is not easy to forget. What can the community do to remember those who died?”

Reintegration/Stigmatization

- “My people, this our community problem that’s everybody problem. We must not leave our people because they went to the ETU and come back alive. They are our own people; let’s love them and care for them all.”

These messages were later recorded in six local languages including Liberian pidgin English across six counties. The messages are currently being aired twice daily on the 22 partner community radio stations. All of the 22 Community Radio stations have held talk shows as means of soliciting listeners’ feedback to the post-Ebola Recovery efforts. According to reports from our Independent Monitors, recorded messages and talk show programme have opened up interesting conversations about remembering the past, role of the government in reintegration of survivors and orphan, issues of stigmatization and accountability more broadly.

4.7.2. EQUIP CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS TO INFLUENCE GOVERNMENT POLICIES AT THE COUNTY LEVEL IN SUPPORT OF THE REINTEGRATION OF EBOLA SURVIVORS

4.7.2.1. DEVELOP ADVOCACY STRATEGY AND CONDUCT COLLABORATIVE ADVOCACY TRAINING FOR CSOS/CBOs (JULY)

Advocacy strategies and subsequent Policy Dialogues with government officials are expected to emerge from the community forums which will commence in October (see section 4.7.1.3.).

4.7.2.2. CSOs/CBOs ENGAGE IN ADVOCACY WITH POLICY MAKERS AT THE COUNTY LEVEL (JULY- OCTOBER)

As indicated above in section 4.7.2.1., engagement with policy makers will occur following the community forums, as these discussions will provide the platform for community members to share their priority issues and identify their strategy for government engagement on policy issues.

4.7.3. PROMOTE HEALING AND FINAL CLOSURE FOR THOSE MOURNING THE LOSS OF LOVED ONES

4.7.3.1. PARTNER WITH CSOs/CBOs, THE TJWG, AND COMMUNITIES TO ESTABLISH WORKING GROUPS, PLAN AND HOLD MEMORIALIZATION ACTIVITIES (JULY-AUGUST)

As described in section 4.7.1.2., the training held in late August included discussion on memorialization and various strategies for working with communities to memorialize people that have died from Ebola. The forums described in section 4.7.1.3., will include discussion with community members on memorialization: helping them to understand

what it is, what they would like to see in their community, and brainstorm a strategy for implementing the approach in the coming months. These events are expected to take place in November.

4.7.3.2. SUPPORT TARGET COMMUNITIES TO DESIGN AND IMPLEMENT TRADITIONAL AND CULTURAL PRACTICES OF MEMORIALIZATION AND TO BRING CLOSURE TO PERIOD OF GRIEF AND MOURNING (AUGUST, SEPTEMBER, OCTOBER)

As with the larger memorialization activities described above (section 4.7.1.3.), the approach for these targeted community-driven memorialization events will emerge from the community forums, planned for October.

5. ATTACHMENTS

- 1) Agenda for Accountability Forum Co-Hosted with MICAT and LMC
- 2) Powerpoint for Researchers' training
- 3) Accountability and Leadership Training Manual
- 4) Zubah Town Report on Ebola Funds
- 5) Training Module for Accountability Training of Trainers (ToT) for Media Mobilizers
- 6) Media Monitoring Report (July/August 2015)
- 7) Media Monitoring Report (September 2015)